PREVIEWS OF ALL 128 FBS TEAMS • RECRUITING • SCOUTING

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AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

2015 NATIONAL EDITION

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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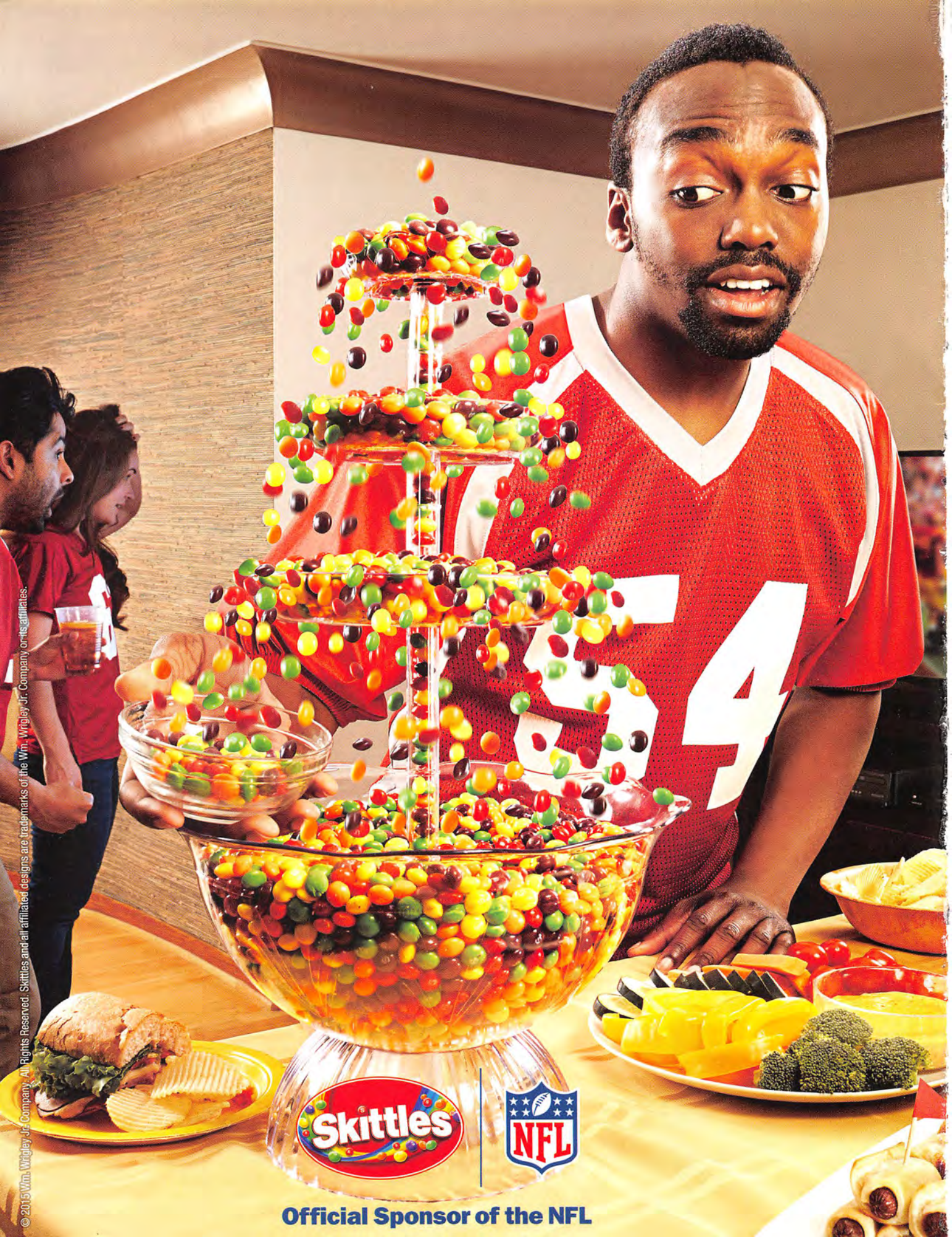
CFB PLAYOFF PREDICTIONS

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3. BAYLOR
4. AUBURN

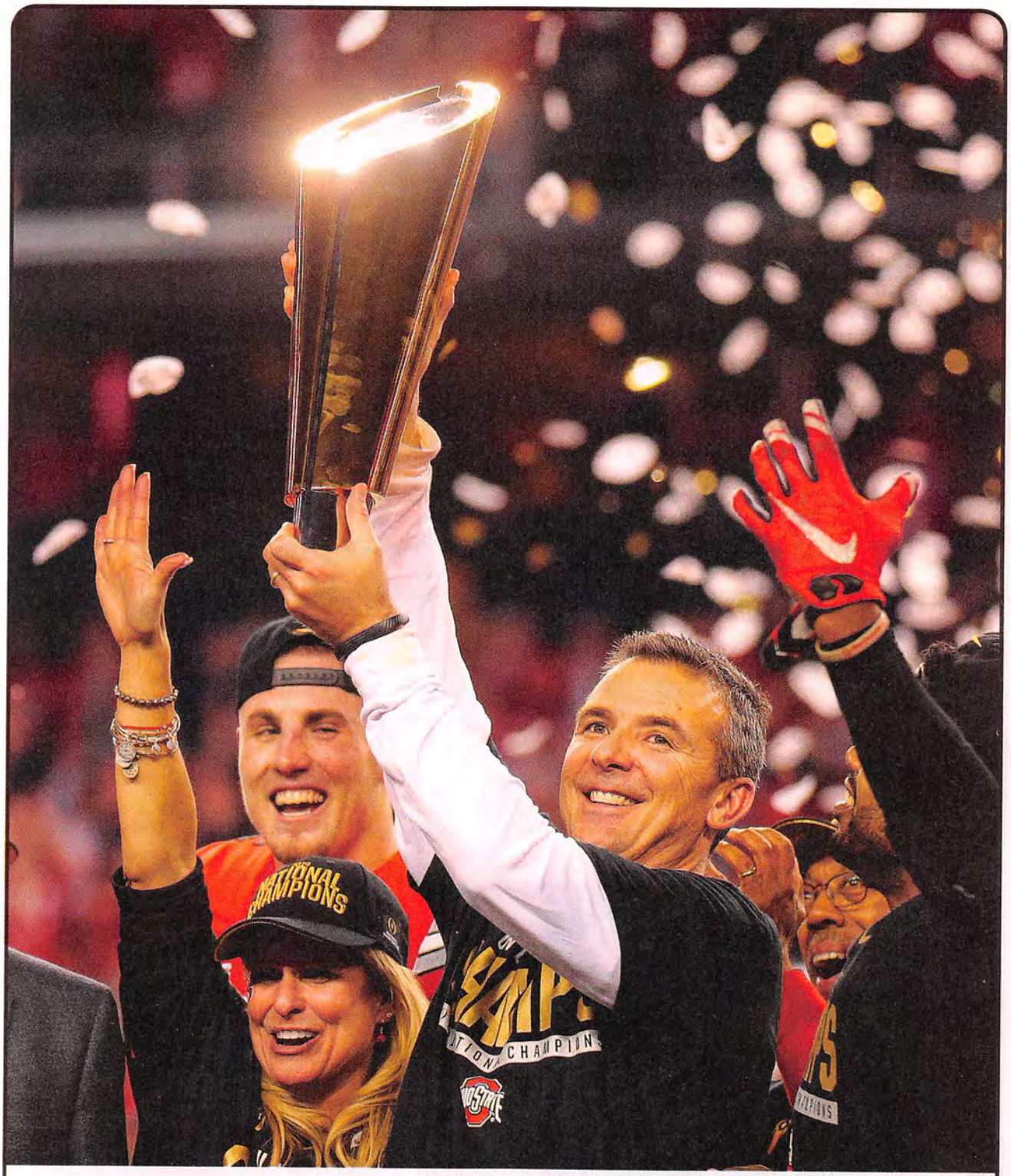
Ohio State RB
EZEKIEL ELLIOTT
Alabama RB
DERRICK HENRY
Baylor WR
COREY COLEMAN
Auburn QB
JEREMY JOHNSON



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Urban Legend

Urban Meyer's Ohio State Buckeyes hoisted the inaugural College Football Playoff National Championship Trophy after a stunning playoff run behind a third-string quarterback. The Bucks are back for more in 2015.

Photo by Layne Murdoch

EDITOR'S LETTER

Three of the four teams we have projected to be in the 2015 College Football Playoff have something in common. Ohio State, Alabama and Auburn have each claimed a national championship in the past five seasons and are considered among the elite programs in the sport (though some Alabama fans would argue that Auburn doesn't belong on that list).

And then there's Baylor. Not too long ago, the Bears were the worst major-college football program in the nation. Not only did they lose a lot of games — Baylor went 3-45 in the Big 12 from 1999-2004 — but the beatings were often epic. Here's a sampling of scores from that era: 62-0 (Texas, 1999), 59-0 (Nebraska, 2000), 56-7 (Oklahoma, 2000), 62-11 (Texas Tech, 2002), 73-10 (Texas A&M, 2003). There's plenty more just like these, but I think you get the point: Baylor was beyond bad in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The Bears began to show a pulse under Guy Morriss, but it wasn't until Art Briles took over in 2008 that things really began to change. After consecutive 4-8 seasons in '08-09, Baylor broke through with a 7-6 mark in 2010 and its first bowl appearance since 1994.

The Bears have averaged 10 wins per season since and have emerged as one of the top programs in the nation. The job done by Briles, who seemingly was born to coach football in the state of Texas, is almost incomprehensible. Even the most optimistic Baylor fan could never have dreamed that this program could make such a rapid climb up the college football food chain.

Is this the year the Bears make the move from very good to great and contend for a national championship? Our guess is yes, but even if the Bears do fall short in 2015, it's remarkable that they are being discussed in the same conversation with schools such as Alabama, Ohio State and Auburn.

Enjoy the season.

Mitchell Light
Executive Editor



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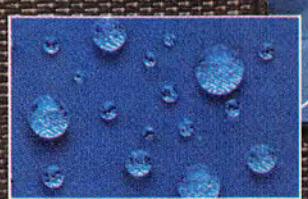
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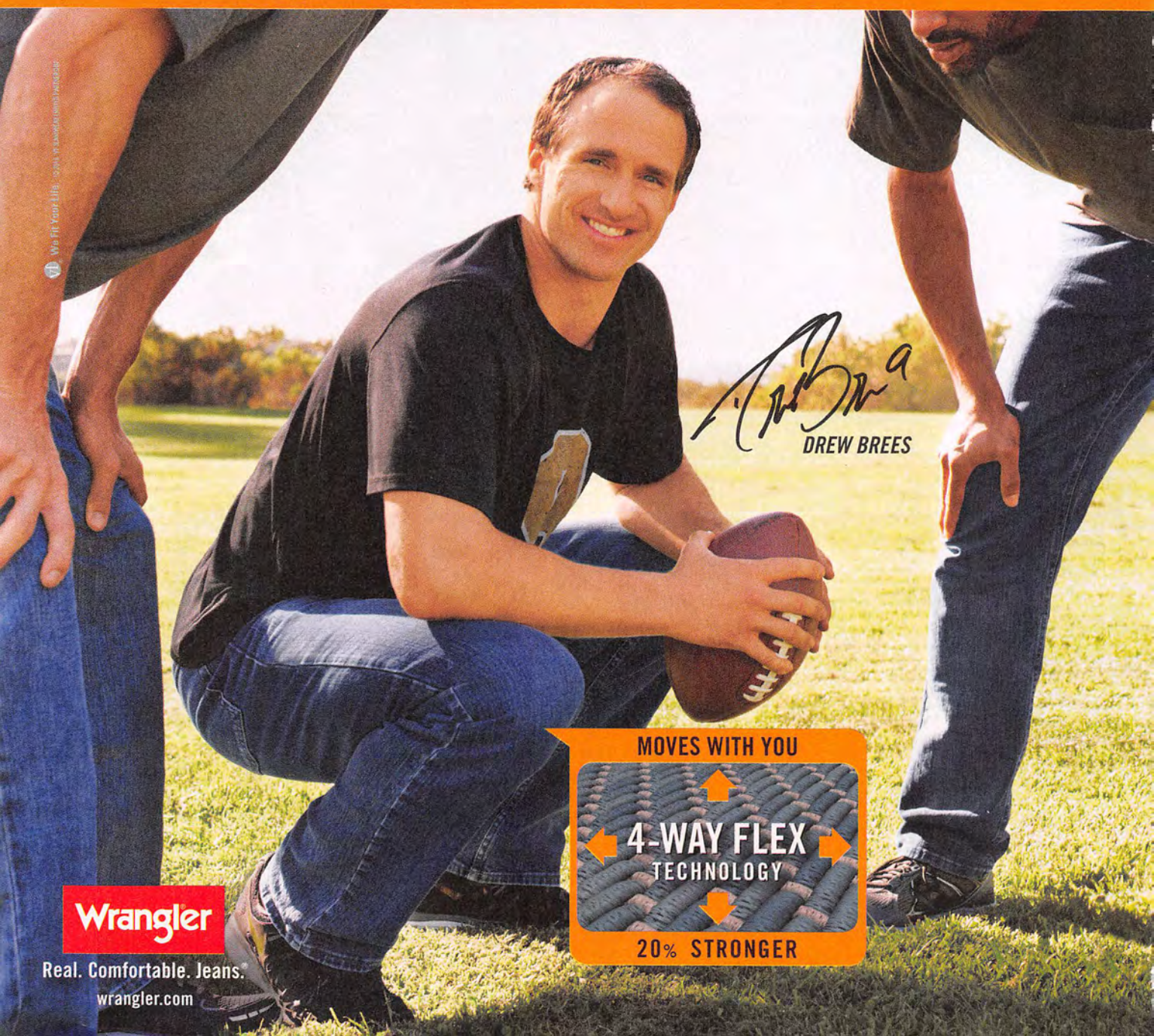
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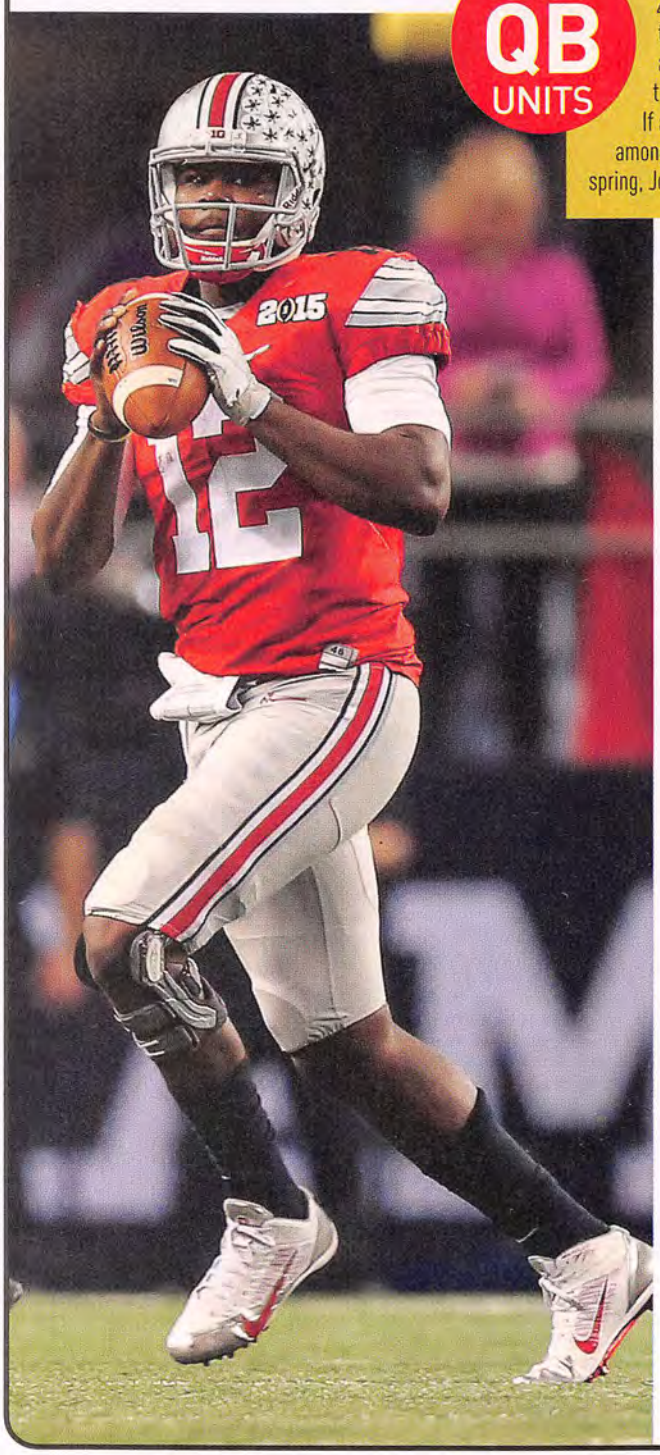
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2015 ATHLON AWARDS

They're the teams within the team — those cohesive little units bound together by their shared responsibilities within the larger team context. For the 15th year, Athlon recognizes college football's best of the best at each position.

TOP QB UNITS



1. Ohio State Urban Meyer enters 2015 with three proven candidates vying for the starting job and plenty of mystery surrounding which quarterback will take the first snap in the opener against Virginia Tech. Braxton Miller missed all of 2014 after shoulder surgery, and J.T. Barrett led the Big Ten by averaging 314.3 total yards per game in 12 starts before suffering a season-ending leg injury against Michigan. Cardale Jones replaced Barrett, and his performance over the final three games was a big reason why Ohio State won the national title. If a quarterback wins the job and starts every game, pencil that player in to be among the nation's leaders for the Heisman. After taking first-team snaps in the spring, Jones has a slight lead on Miller and Barrett.

2. TCU After finishing near the bottom of the Big 12 in offense in 2013, TCU revamped its scheme behind first-year co-coordinators Doug Meacham and Sonny Cumbie. The move paid big dividends for the Horned Frogs, as quarterback Trevone Boykin engineered an offense that averaged 46.5 points per game in 2014. Boykin thrived in the up-tempo, spread attack, completing 61.2 percent of his passes and throwing 33 touchdowns to only 10 picks. Boykin also ranked second on the team with 707 rushing yards. The senior is among the preseason favorites to win the Heisman Trophy.

3. Mississippi State The Bulldogs are losing several key players from last year's 10–3 team, but the return of quarterback Dak Prescott should keep Mississippi State in contention in a brutal SEC West. En route to earning first-team All-SEC honors last year, Prescott posted the first 3,000-yard season (3,449) in school history and tossed 27 touchdowns. He also rushed for 986 yards and 14 scores. Prescott averaged 317.8 passing yards in his final four games against ranked opponents.

4. USC Cody Kessler had a breakout 2014 season in coach Steve Sarkisian's first year with the Trojans. Kessler threw for 3,826 yards and 39 scores in 13 games and tossed only five interceptions on 452 attempts. The senior also led all starting quarterbacks from the Power 5 conferences with a 69.7 completion percentage. Kessler is the top returning quarterback in the Pac-12 this season, but he must play better against ranked teams for USC to challenge for a CFB Playoff spot. In four games against teams in the Associated Press Top 25 last year, Kessler tossed only four touchdowns to three interceptions.

5. Michigan State Connor Cook won't statistically match some of the other quarterbacks in contention for All-America honors, but the senior might be the most pro-ready prospect in the nation. In 13 games last year, Cook threw for 3,214 yards and 24 scores and earned second-team All-Big Ten honors. The senior has thrown only 15 picks in 762 pass attempts in his Michigan State career and is 23–3 as the starter.

6. Clemson 7. Auburn 8. Penn State 9. BYU 10. California 11. Notre Dame 12. Miami (Fla.) 13. Georgia Tech 14. Arizona 15. Oregon 16. Navy 17. Cincinnati 18. Tennessee 19. Texas A&M 20. North Carolina 21. NC State 22. WKU 23. Oklahoma State 24. Baylor 25. Stanford

Jones: Layne Murdoch; Chubb: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports



TOP RB UNITS

1. Georgia The Bulldogs got an early preview of their 2015 backfield after Todd Gurley's 2014 season ended following a suspension and torn ACL. Nick Chubb rushed for only 224 yards through the first five games but emerged as one of the SEC's top running backs in the second half of last year. The five-star recruit from Georgia finished 2014 with 1,547 yards and 14 rushing scores. Chubb averaged at least 8.0 yards per carry in three of his last five games. Sony Michel also impressed as a true freshman last year, averaging 6.4 yards per carry. Michel and Keith Marshall will compete for the No. 2 spot behind Chubb.

2. Oklahoma A freshman was supposed to make an impact at running back for Oklahoma last season, but most believed it would be Joe Mixon. However, Mixon was suspended for the entire year, allowing Samaje Perine to emerge as the Big 12's top running back. Perine set the single-game rushing record with 427 yards against Kansas, led all freshman running backs with 1,713 yards and added 21 scores. Mixon is slated to return in 2015, giving Oklahoma a dynamic one-two combination at running back. Alex Ross is another weapon for new offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley after averaging 6.8 yards per carry in 2014.

3. Ohio State With an offensive line that was struggling to find its footing early in the year, Ezekiel Elliott got off to a slow start in 2014. However, no running back was performing at a higher level by the end of last season. Elliott finished with three consecutive 200-yard efforts, including 246 yards and four scores in the national championship game against Oregon. Elliott is one of the favorites to win the Heisman, but he won't have to shoulder all of the workload. Curtis Samuel is ready for a bigger role after averaging 6.6 yards per carry last year.

4. Arkansas Behind a massive offensive line and two of the SEC's top running backs, the Razorbacks have averaged 200 rushing yards per game in back-to-back seasons. Alex Collins and Jonathan Williams finished 2014 as the only running back duo in college football to both reach the 1,000-yard mark. Williams led the team with 1,190 yards and 12 scores, while Collins finished with 1,100 yards and 12 touchdowns. Fullback Kody Walker, all 250 pounds of him, is the team's No. 3 option and averaged 4.8 yards on 31 carries last season.

5. Oregon The Ducks have produced a 1,000-yard rusher in eight consecutive seasons, and that streak should extend to nine in 2015. Royce Freeman led the team with 1,365 yards and 18 scores as a true freshman in 2014. Freeman is Oregon's go-to back, but Thomas Tyner has rushed for 1,284 yards and 14 touchdowns over the last two years and recorded 124 yards against Florida State in the Rose Bowl. More depth and talent are available in the form of touted freshmen Taj Griffin and Tony Brooks-James.

6. Pittsburgh 7. Alabama 8. Florida State 9. Baylor 10. LSU 11. UCLA 12. Tennessee 13. Auburn
14. Wisconsin 15. Miami (Fla.) 16. Michigan State 17. Utah 18. Arizona 19. California
20. Boston College 21. West Virginia 22. TCU 23. Toledo 24. San Diego State 25. Marshall



TOP WR UNITS

1. Baylor Recruiting and developing playmakers at receiver is becoming an annual strength for Baylor under Art Briles. Antwan Goodley departs after a standout career with the Bears, but there's no concern about the returning group. Junior Corey Coleman led all Big 12 receivers with 10 touchdown catches in league games, while KD Cannon led the team with 17.8 yards per catch. Jay Lee is a reliable third option, and the Bears expect big contributions from sophomore Davion Hall and redshirt freshman Ishmael Zamora in 2015. The cupboard isn't bare at tight end for Briles with 410-pound converted lineman LaQuan McGowan on board.

2. Texas A&M Kevin Sumlin's team is loaded once again with playmakers in the receiving corps. Josh Reynolds led the team with 842 receiving yards and 13 touchdown catches in his first year after arriving from the junior college ranks. Speedy Noil and Ricky Seals-Jones combined for 95 catches and nine touchdown receptions as freshmen last season. Edward Pope, Frank Iheanacho and Sabian Holmes are back as other key targets, but true freshman Christian Kirk could be one of quarterback Kyle Allen's favorite weapons by the end of the year.

3. Ole Miss The talent and depth of the receiving corps have improved significantly under coach Hugh Freeze, and whichever quarterback starts for the Rebels will have plenty of options. Laquon Treadwell's 2014 season was cut short by a nasty leg injury against Auburn, but all signs point to the junior returning at full strength by the fall. In nine games last year, Treadwell caught 48 passes for 632 yards. Evan Engram is listed at tight end, but the Georgia native can stretch the field like a receiver. Cody Core (41 catches in 2014), Quincy Adeboyejo and Markell Pack join Engram and Treadwell as proven and viable candidates.

4. Clemson Athletic and speedy playmakers are in abundance at Clemson for new co-coordinators Tony Elliott and Jeff Scott. Mike Williams is back after leading the team with 1,030 receiving yards last season, but the offseason buzz with the Tigers revolved around the development of Artavis Scott. As a freshman in 2014, Scott caught 76 passes for 965 yards. Williams and Scott will catch a majority of quarterback Deshaun Watson's passes, but Germone Hopper, freshman Deon Cain, Charone Peake and tight end Jordan Leggett will be involved.

5. TCU The Horned Frogs return four of their top five statistical receivers from last season. Josh Doctson is quarterback Trevone Boykin's favorite target, and the Wyoming transfer became the first TCU receiver since 2003 to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark. Doctson also led the team with 11 touchdown catches last year. Kolby Listenbee averaged 18.4 yards per catch and caught seven passes of 40 yards or more. Deante' Gray, Ty Slanina, Emanuel Porter and Ja'Juan Story round out an athletic and fast-improving receiving corps.

6. USC 7. Arizona 8. Notre Dame 9. Oregon 10. Penn State 11. California 12. Ohio State 13. Tennessee 14. Florida State 15. Auburn 16. UCLA 17. North Carolina 18. LSU 19. Mississippi State 20. Cincinnati 21. Oklahoma 22. Oklahoma State 23. Alabama 24. Colorado State 25. Boise State

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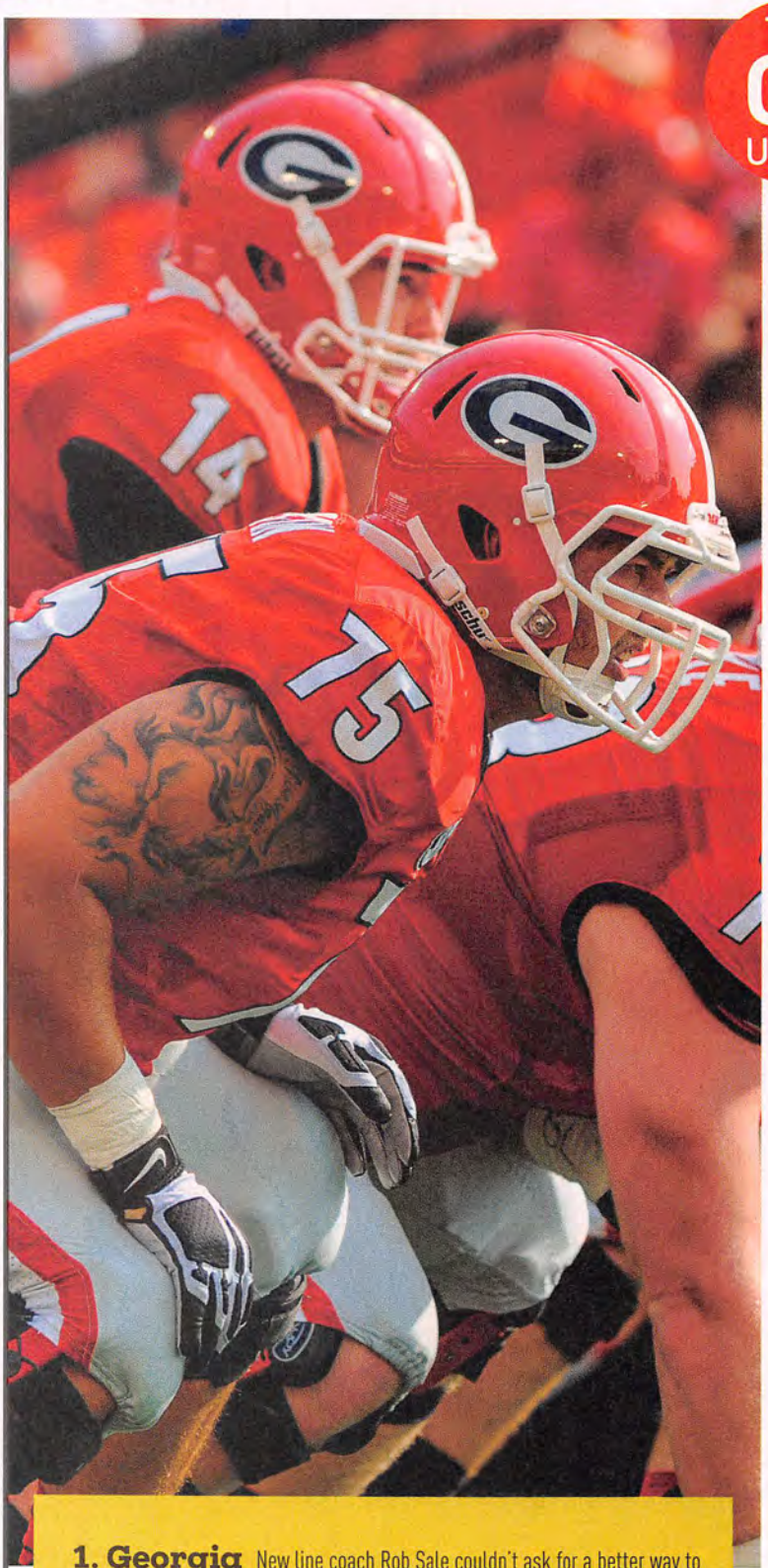
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TOP OL UNITS

1. Georgia New line coach Rob Sale couldn't ask for a better way to begin his tenure in Athens. This unit allowed only 12 sacks in SEC games and excelled in run blocking by clearing lanes for rushers to average 6.0 yards per carry. All-SEC center David Andrews will be missed, but Sale's group is set with the return of rising star Greg Pyke at guard, along with the standout tackle duo of John Theus and Kolton Houston. Sophomore Isaiah Wynn is the favorite to replace Andrews at center.

2. Michigan State The Spartans boasted one of the nation's top offensive lines last season, and this unit is only getting better with the return of four starters, along with the emergence of sophomore guard Brian Allen. Left tackle Jack Conklin and center Jack Allen headline a group that gave up only 11 sacks last season and allowed rushers to average 5.2 yards per carry. Senior guard Donavon Clark and right tackle Kodi Kieler anchor an experienced right side.

3. Ohio State After a shaky start to the 2014 season, no line in the nation progressed as much as Ohio State's. The Buckeyes gave up seven sacks in the loss to Virginia Tech in Week 2 but allowed only 15 sacks in Big Ten games, and quarterback Cardale Jones was sacked once in the national title win over Oregon. Four starters are back, and the Buckeyes expect this group to be even stronger. Left tackle Taylor Decker and right guard Pat Elflein are the unit's top performers and first-team *Athlon Sports* All-Americans for 2015. Jacoby Boren returns at center, while Billy Price (left guard) and Chase Farris (right tackle) round out the starting five.

4. Baylor The success of Baylor's high-powered offense starts in the trenches. Left tackle Spencer Drango considered an early jump to the NFL, but the three-year starter is back and is a first-team *Athlon Sports* All-American for 2015. Three other seniors join Drango up front, including guard Blake Muir and tackle Pat Colbert. Center Kyle Fuller started all 13 games last year and will push for all-conference honors in 2015. The coaching staff wants to develop more depth, but there are few concerns about the starting group. This unit gave up only one sack every 22 pass attempts and allowed Baylor rushers to average 4.5 yards per carry.

5. Arkansas The Razorbacks return four starters from the nation's largest offensive line. This unit cleared the way for rushers to average 5.1 yards per carry and allowed only 14 sacks in 2014. All five projected starters for 2015 weigh over 300 pounds, with converted guard Denver Kirkland slated to anchor the line at left tackle. Kirkland and Dan Skipper are among the SEC's best up front, and the tackle duo will have plenty of support from the starters on the interior. Sebastian Tretola is a mauling 322-pound guard, and senior Mitch Smothers enters 2015 with 21 career starts. Sophomore Frank Ragnow is the only new starter for this unit.

6. Auburn 7. LSU 8. Alabama 9. USC 10. Stanford
11. Texas Tech 12. Boise State 13. Notre Dame
14. Georgia Tech 15. Pittsburgh 16. Wisconsin 17. UCLA
18. Missouri 19. Texas A&M 20. Oregon
21. Ole Miss 22. Minnesota 23. Kansas State
24. Indiana 25. Oklahoma State

Houston: Billy Weeks; Robinson: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

TOP DL UNITS

2. Michigan State An aggressive and deep defensive front is becoming an annual storyline for Michigan State. The Spartans have ranked among the top 10 nationally in rush defense in four consecutive seasons and finished first last year by holding opponents to just 88.5 yards per game. Shilique Calhoun decided against entering the NFL Draft for one more season in East Lansing, and the senior is a first-team *Athlon Sports* All-American. Senior Lawrence Thomas slides from tackle to end, but sophomore Demetrius Cooper and redshirt freshman Montez Sweat will push for snaps. The interior is set with Malik McDowell and Joel Heath.

3. Virginia Tech Virginia Tech's offense remains a work in progress, meaning the Hokies have to ask their defense to carry this team once again. Fortunately for coordinator Bud Foster, that won't be a problem with eight returning starters and the best defensive line in the ACC. The Hokies allowed 144.8 rushing yards per game last season, but that number should decrease with the return of Luther Maddy from injury at tackle. And the rotation on the interior is set with Nigel Williams, Corey Marshall and Woody Baron. The Hokies could have the nation's top duo at end with Dadi Nicolas and Ken Ekanem.

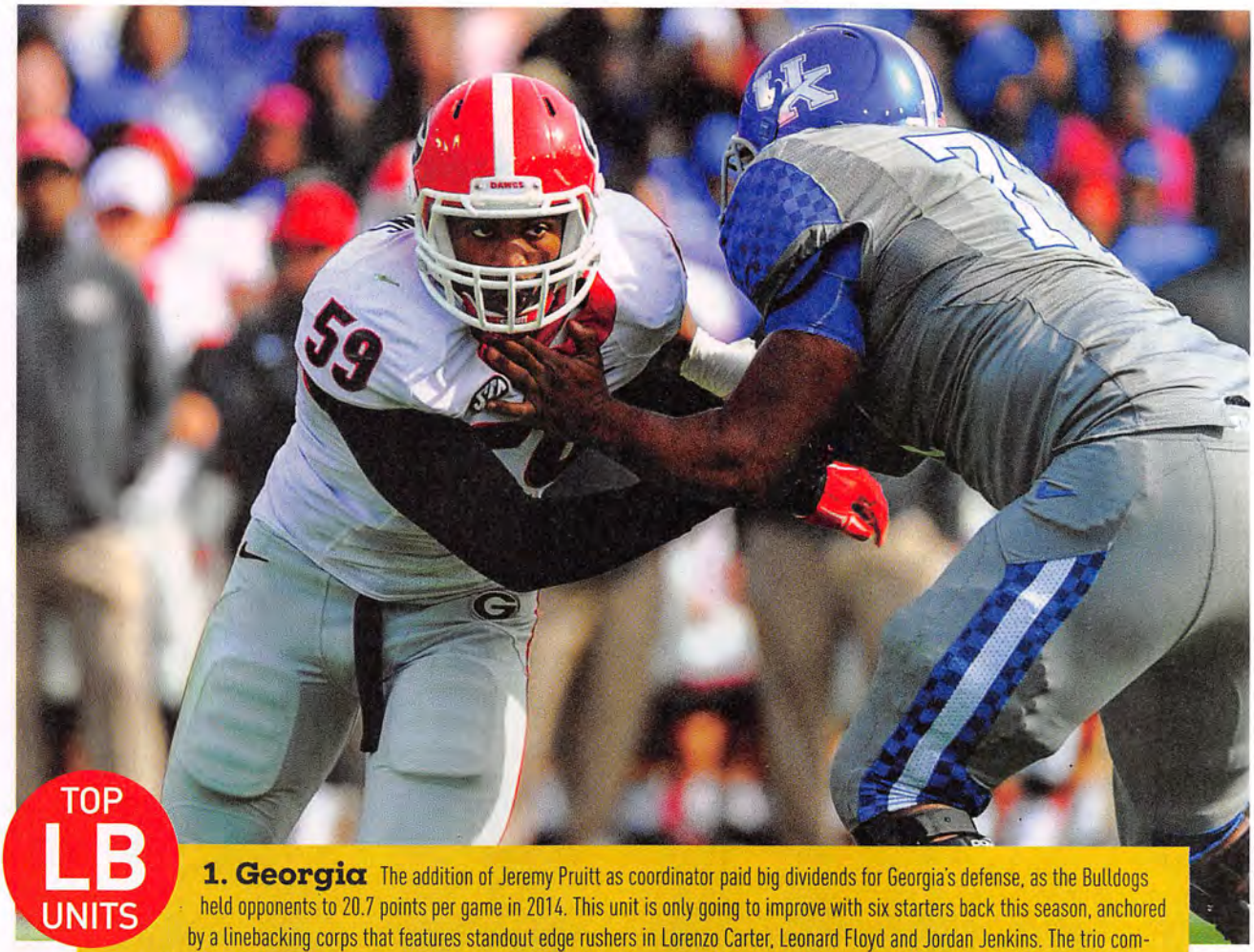
4. Baylor Baylor's high-powered offense garners all of the attention, but the defense has made considerable progress under coordinator Phil Bennett. The Bears held opponents to 3.2 yards per carry last year and ranked 16th nationally against the run. At 6'9" and 280 pounds, end Shawn Oakman is as physically gifted as any defender in the nation. He recorded 11 sacks last season. End Jamal Palmer is back as a starter on the other side after missing most of 2014 with a torn ACL. The interior is stout with senior Beau Blackshear and the underrated Andrew Billings back in 2015.

5. Ole Miss Even though the Rebels lose three contributors from last year's line, this group could be deeper and better than it was in 2014. Tackle Robert Nkemdiche earned first-team All-SEC honors last season, and the NFL prospect is primed for his best year as a junior. Issac Gross joins Nkemdiche as a disruptive force on the interior, with junior college recruit D.J. Jones supplying depth. Freshman Victor Evans and junior Fadol Brown are expected to start on the edges, but sophomore Marquis Haynes should see an increased role after leading the team with 7.5 sacks in 2014.

6. Florida 7. TCU 8. Ohio State 9. Boise State
10. Texas 11. Auburn 12. Tennessee 13. UCLA
14. Penn State 15. Utah 16. LSU 17. Texas A&M
18. Notre Dame 19. Arkansas 20. Oklahoma State
21. Missouri 22. Florida State 23. Clemson
24. Louisville 25. Michigan



1. Alabama Nearly everyone from a dominant 2014 group is back for coordinator Kirby Smart. The Crimson Tide allowed only five rushing scores last year and limited opponents to 3.2 yards per carry. A'Shawn Robinson won't post huge numbers, but the junior is versatile enough to play on the outside or on the interior and is the top player in this unit. Ends Jarran Reed and Jonathan Allen played in all 14 games and combined for 17.5 tackles for a loss last year. Helping the starting trio is a deep and experienced group of reserves, including D.J. Pettway and 2014 five-star recruit Da'Shawn Hand.



TOP LB UNITS

1. Georgia The addition of Jeremy Pruitt as coordinator paid big dividends for Georgia's defense, as the Bulldogs held opponents to 20.7 points per game in 2014. This unit is only going to improve with six starters back this season, anchored by a linebacking corps that features standout edge rushers in Lorenzo Carter, Leonard Floyd and Jordan Jenkins. The trio combined for 25 tackles for a loss and 15.5 sacks in 2014. The interior must be rebuilt with the departure of Ramik Wilson and Amarlo Herrera, but Reggie Carter, Tim Kimbrough, Jake Ganus and Natrez Patrick should ensure little drop in production.

2. Ohio State Two-year starter Curtis Grant departs, but the Buckeyes won't miss a beat at linebacker. In fact, this group could be even better than it was in 2014. Darron Lee was an impact defender as a redshirt freshman last season, finishing second on the team with 16.5 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks. Joshua Perry returns for his senior season after leading the team with 124 tackles and recording three sacks and one interception. Grant's departure opens the door for Raekwon McMillan — the No. 22 recruit in the 2014 247Sports Composite — to move into the starting lineup.

3. Alabama Reggie Ragland is the next star in Alabama's run of standout linebackers under coach Nick Saban. In 14 games last year, Ragland anchored the interior of Alabama's 3-4 scheme, recording 95 tackles (10.5 for a loss) and one forced fumble. Senior Denzel Devall is the only other returning starter at linebacker for the Crimson Tide, but talent certainly isn't an issue at the other spots. Ryan Anderson and hard-hitting Reuben Foster have the inside track to fill the starting positions, but Shaun Dion Hamilton, Dillon Lee and Rashaan Evans will factor into the rotation.

4. Oklahoma The Sooners enter 2015 with question marks about the defensive line and secondary, but coordinator Mike Stoops has little concern about the linebackers. All three starters are back this season, with senior Eric Striker the group's leader and one of the Big 12's top impact defenders. Striker recorded nine sacks and 17 tackles for a loss in 2014. Joining Striker as starters will be Dominique Alexander and Jordan Evans, but Frank Shannon is back from suspension and is a key addition to this group after recording 92 tackles in 2013.

5. Notre Dame The linebacker unit is the strength of the Fighting Irish in 2015, as Jaylon Smith returns after earning second-team All-America honors by the Associated Press last season. Smith led the team with 112 tackles and also recorded 3.5 sacks in 2014. Joe Schmidt started eight games and recorded 65 tackles before suffering a season-ending ankle injury. Getting Schmidt and Jarrett Grace both back to full strength from injury is critical to help a run defense that ranked 72nd nationally in 2014. Sophomore Nyles Morgan is another name to watch.

6. UCLA 7. Michigan State 8. Stanford 9. Penn State 10. Missouri 11. Utah State 12. Boise State
13. Louisville 14. Auburn 15. LSU 16. Arizona State 17. Arizona 18. Oregon 19. USC
20. Michigan 21. Wisconsin 22. Oklahoma State 23. Utah 24. Wake Forest 25. West Virginia

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

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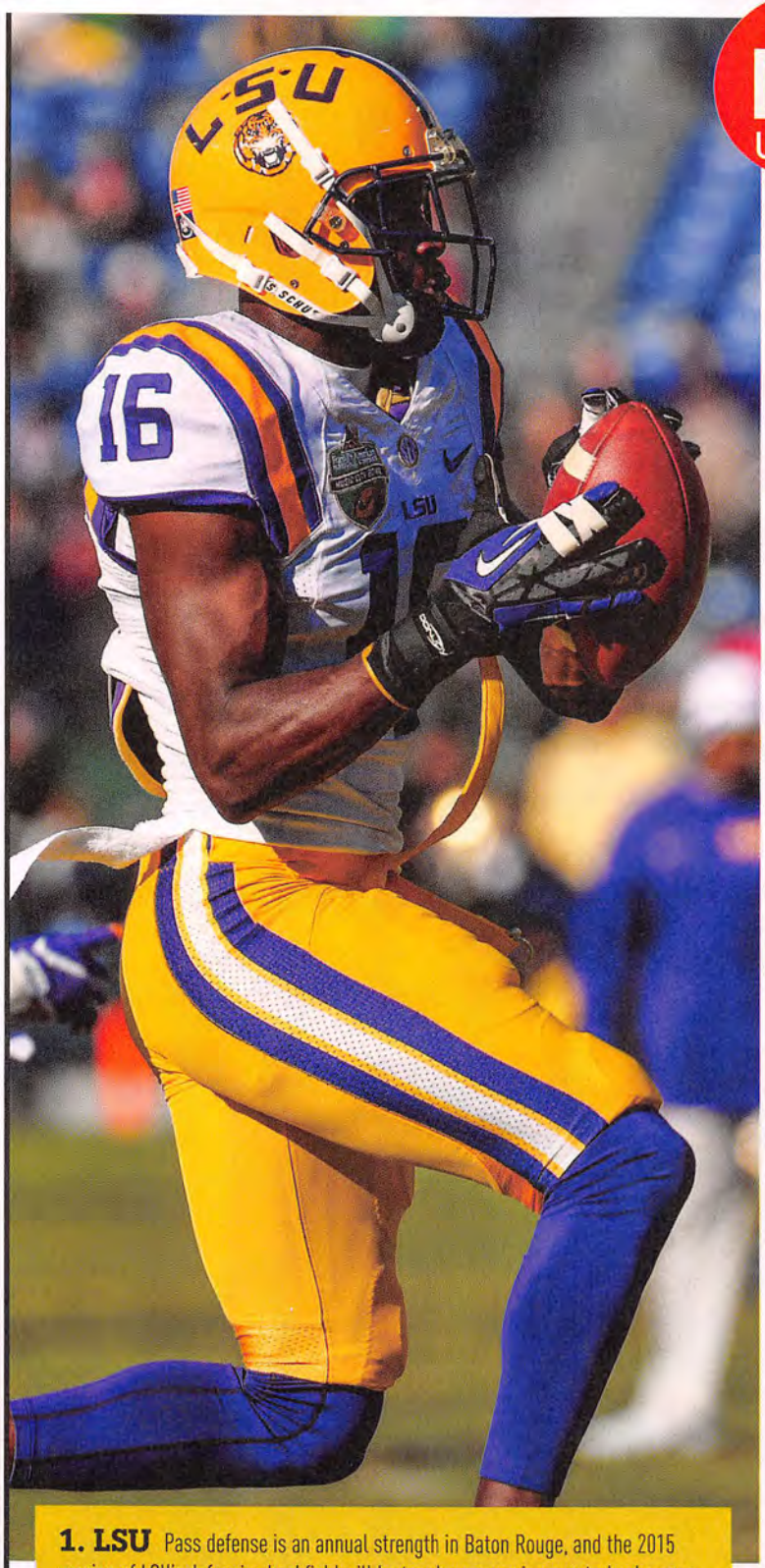
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TOP DB UNITS

1. LSU Pass defense is an annual strength in Baton Rouge, and the 2015 version of LSU's defensive backfield will be tough on opposing quarterbacks once again. Two starters depart, but the Tigers will reload with another wave of elite recruits. Tre'Davious White was one of the SEC's top cover corners last season, recording two interceptions and helping LSU rank third nationally in pass efficiency defense. Sophomore Ed Paris or five-star freshman Kevin Toliver II will start opposite White at corner. Jalen Mills and rising star Jamal Adams form one of the nation's top duos at safety. The Tigers allowed only nine passing scores in SEC games last year.

2. Florida Despite an offense that ranked near the bottom of the SEC, Florida's defense led the conference by holding opponents to 4.6 yards per play. And even with end Dante Fowler off to the NFL, the Gators should be near the top of the league once again. New coordinator Geoff Collins is known for his aggressive play-calling and inherits a secondary loaded with elite talent, including All-America corner Vernon Hargreaves III. The other corner spot is up for grabs, but Florida isn't hurting for options. Safeties Keanu Neal and Marcus Maye and nickel back Brian Poole round out a starting group that limited SEC opponents to 11 passing scores in 2014.

3. Ohio State Standout corner Doran Grant will be missed, but Ohio State returns three starters from a secondary that ranked 13th nationally in pass efficiency defense. Eli Apple started 14 games as a redshirt freshman last season and led all Buckeye defenders with 10 pass breakups. Sophomore Gareon Conley is expected to replace Grant, while Marshon Lattimore and Damon Webb provide extra support at corner. Juniors Tyvis Powell and Vonn Bell are as active as any starting safety combination in the nation, recording 10 interceptions and 10 pass breakups in 2014.

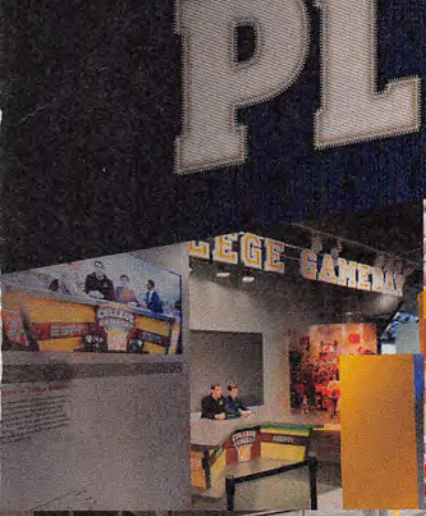
4. Ole Miss Two starters — cornerback Senquez Golson and safety Cody Prewitt — depart from a secondary that picked off 19 passes and ranked 16th nationally in pass efficiency defense last year. Additionally, cornerback Mike Hilton was shifted to safety, opening the door for two new cornerbacks at Ole Miss in 2015. Despite the player movement, the Rebels will be tough against the pass once again. Safety Tony Conner should assume Prewitt's job as an all-around playmaker in the secondary, while junior college recruits Tee Shepard and Tony Bridges are ready to step into the starting jobs at cornerback after standout spring performances.

5. Virginia Tech Despite ranking 14th nationally in pass efficiency defense last year, Virginia Tech had trouble stopping big plays in the passing game. The Hokies surprisingly allowed 21 plays of 30 yards or more and gave up four of 50-plus yards. With junior Kendall Fuller — an *Athlon Sports* first-team All-American — back at cornerback, along with the return of Brandon Facyson from injury, Virginia Tech's secondary should eliminate some of the big plays that plagued this unit last year. Chuck Clark and C.J. Reavis are the frontrunners to start at safety.

6. USC 7. Boise State 8. West Virginia 9. Georgia
10. Wisconsin 11. Penn State 12. Minnesota
13. Notre Dame 14. Alabama 15. Tennessee
16. Florida State 17. Auburn 18. Arkansas 19. Clemson
20. UCLA 21. Michigan 22. Oklahoma State
23. Kansas State 24. Houston 25. Missouri

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ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	TREVONE BOYKIN	6-2	205	SR.	TCU
RB	NICK CHUBB	5-10	228	SO.	GEORGIA
RB	EZEKIEL ELLIOTT	6-0	225	JR.	OHIO STATE
WR	TYLER BOYD	6-2	190	JR.	PITTSBURGH
WR	LAQUON TREADWELL	6-2	229	JR.	OLE MISS
TE	HUNTER HENRY	6-5	250	JR.	ARKANSAS
C	MAX TUERK	6-6	285	SR.	USC
OL	TAYLOR DECKER	6-8	315	SR.	OHIO STATE
OL	SPENCER DRANGO	6-6	310	SR.	BAYLOR
OL	PAT ELFLEIN	6-3	300	JR.	OHIO STATE
OL	LAREMY TUNSIL	6-5	305	JR.	OLE MISS
AP	PHAROH COOPER	5-11	208	JR.	SOUTH CAROLINA

DEFENSE

DE	JOEY BOSA	6-6	275	JR.	OHIO STATE
DE	SHILIQUE CALHOUN	6-5	250	SR.	MICHIGAN STATE
DT	ROBERT NKEMDICHE	6-4	280	JR.	OLE MISS
DT	A'SHAWN ROBINSON	6-4	312	JR.	ALABAMA
LB	MYLES JACK	6-1	232	JR.	UCLA
LB	REGGIE RAGLAND	6-2	252	SR.	ALABAMA
LB	SCOOBY WRIGHT	6-1	246	JR.	ARIZONA
DB	TONY CONNER	6-0	217	JR.	OLE MISS
DB	KENDALL FULLER	6-0	197	JR.	VIRGINIA TECH
DB	VERNON HARGREAVES III	5-11	198	JR.	FLORIDA
DB	JALEN RAMSEY	6-1	201	JR.	FLORIDA STATE

SPECIALISTS

K	ROBERTO AGUAYO	6-1	204	JR.	FLORIDA STATE
P	TOM HACKETT	5-11	195	SR.	UTAH
KR	ALEX ROSS	6-1	220	JR.	OKLAHOMA
PR	DE'MORNAY PIERSON-EL	5-9	185	SO.	NEBRASKA



TREVONE BOYKIN

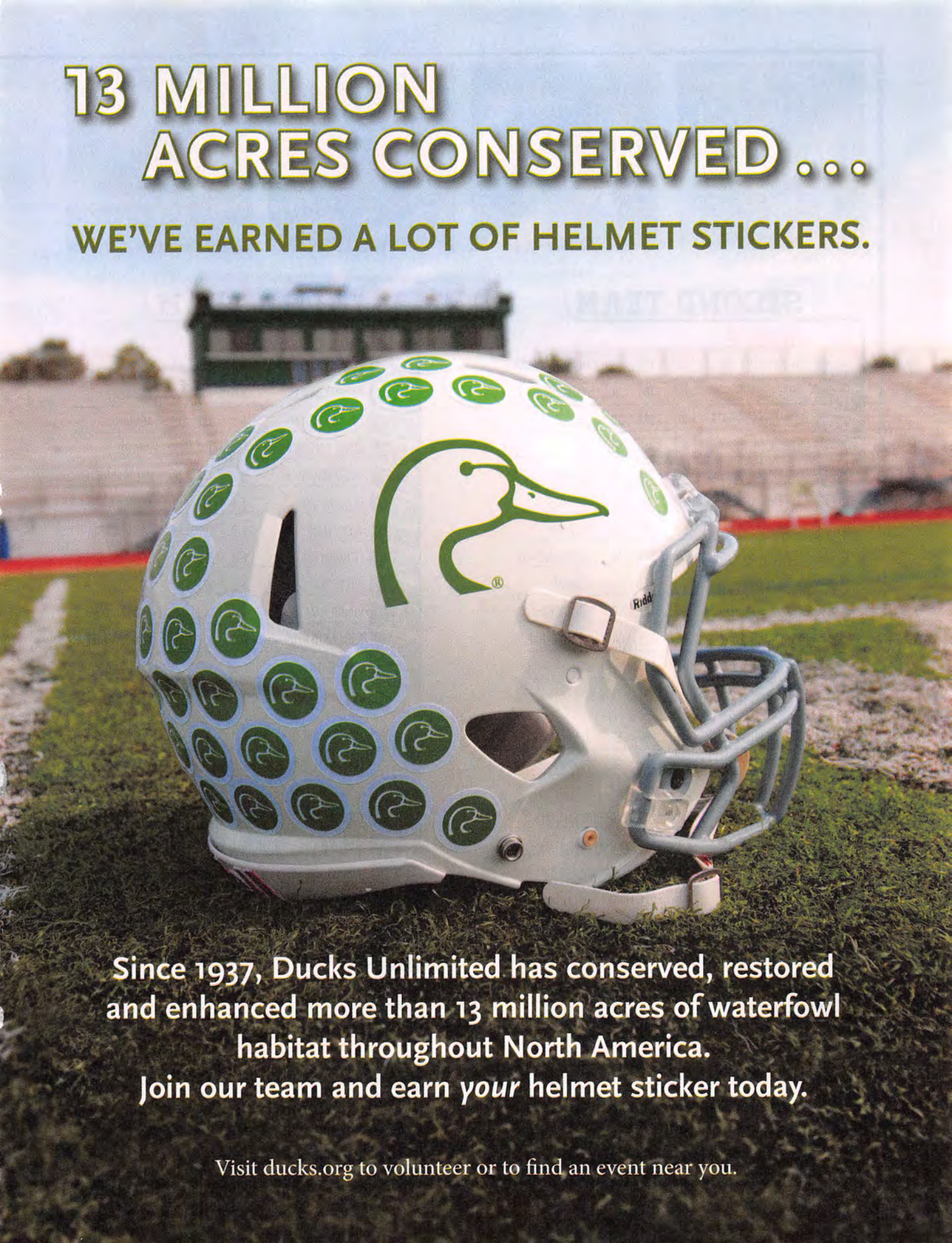


JOEY BOSA

Boykin: Layne Murdoch; Bosa: Ric Fogel

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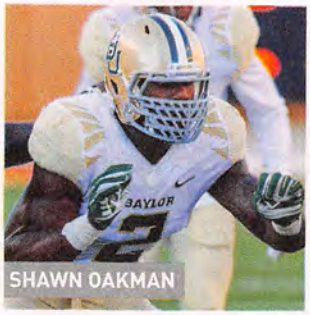
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DAK PRESCOTT


SHAWN OAKMAN


CODY KESSLER


EMMANUEL OGBAH

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	DAK PRESCOTT	6-2	230	SR.	MISSISSIPPI STATE
RB	JAMES CONNER	6-2	250	JR.	PITTSBURGH
RB	LEONARD FOURNETTE	6-1	230	SO.	LSU
WR	JUJU SMITH	6-2	210	SO.	USC
WR	D'HAQUILLE WILLIAMS	6-2	224	SR.	AUBURN
TE	EVAN ENGRAM	6-3	227	JR.	OLE MISS
C	RYAN KELLY	6-5	297	SR.	ALABAMA
OL	JACK CONKLIN	6-6	317	JR.	MICHIGAN STATE
OL	CAM ROBINSON	6-6	326	SO.	ALABAMA
OL	SEBASTIAN TRETOLA	6-5	322	SR.	ARKANSAS
OL	LANDON TURNER	6-4	325	SR.	NORTH CAROLINA
AP	ADOREE' JACKSON	5-11	185	SO.	USC

DEFENSE

DE	DEREK BARNETT	6-3	268	SO.	TENNESSEE
DE	SHAWN OAKMAN	6-9	280	SR.	BAYLOR
DT	ANDREW BILLINGS	6-2	300	JR.	BAYLOR
DT	ANTHONY ZETTEL	6-4	278	SR.	PENN STATE
LB	DARRON LEE	6-2	235	SO.	OHIO STATE
LB	JAYLON SMITH	6-3	235	JR.	NOTRE DAME
LB	ERIC STRIKER	6-0	223	SR.	OKLAHOMA
DB	ELI APPLE	6-1	200	SO.	OHIO STATE
DB	VONN BELL	5-11	205	JR.	OHIO STATE
DB	JEREMY CASH	6-2	205	SR.	DUKE
DB	ZACK SANCHEZ	5-11	175	JR.	OKLAHOMA

SPECIALISTS

K	BRAD CRADDOCK	6-0	189	SR.	MARYLAND
P	JK SCOTT	6-5	195	SO.	ALABAMA
KR	ADOREE' JACKSON	5-11	185	SO.	USC
PR	CHARLES NELSON	5-8	170	SO.	OREGON

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	CODY KESSLER	6-1	210	SR.	USC
RB	DALVIN COOK	6-0	203	SO.	FLORIDA STATE
RB	DERRICK HENRY	6-3	242	JR.	ALABAMA
WR	COREY COLEMAN	5-11	190	JR.	BAYLOR
WR	RASHARD HIGGINS	6-2	188	JR.	COLORADO STATE
TE	O.J. HOWARD	6-6	242	JR.	ALABAMA
C	JACK ALLEN	6-2	295	SR.	MICHIGAN STATE
OL	LE'RAVEN CLARK	6-6	316	SR.	TEXAS TECH
OL	GREG PYKE	6-6	321	JR.	GEORGIA
OL	RONNIE STANLEY	6-6	315	SR.	NOTRE DAME
OL	CODY WHITEHAIR	6-4	309	SR.	KANSAS STATE
AP	D.J. FOSTER	5-11	195	SR.	ARIZONA STATE

DEFENSE

DE	MYLES GARRETT	6-5	255	SO.	TEXAS A&M
DE	EMMANUEL OGBAH	6-4	275	JR.	OKLAHOMA STATE
DT	MALIEK COLLINS	6-2	300	JR.	NEBRASKA
DT	ADOLPHUS WASHINGTON	6-4	290	SR.	OHIO STATE
LB	SU'A CRAVENS	6-1	225	JR.	USC
LB	JORDAN JENKINS	6-3	252	SR.	GEORGIA
LB	JOSHUA PERRY	6-4	254	SR.	OHIO STATE
DB	MACKENSIE ALEXANDER	5-10	190	SO.	CLEMSON
DB	QUIN BLANDING	6-4	215	SO.	VIRGINIA
DB	KARL JOSEPH	5-11	197	SR.	WEST VIRGINIA
DB	WILLIAM LIKELY	5-7	175	JR.	MARYLAND

SPECIALISTS

K	ANDY PHILLIPS	5-10	205	JR.	UTAH
P	AUSTIN REHKOW	6-3	215	JR.	IDAHO
KR	JOHN ROSS	5-11	194	JR.	WASHINGTON
PR	JALIN MARSHALL	5-11	205	SO.	OHIO STATE

Prescott: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Oakman: Chris Covatta; Kessler: Peter Brouillet; Ogbah: Layne Murdoch Jr.

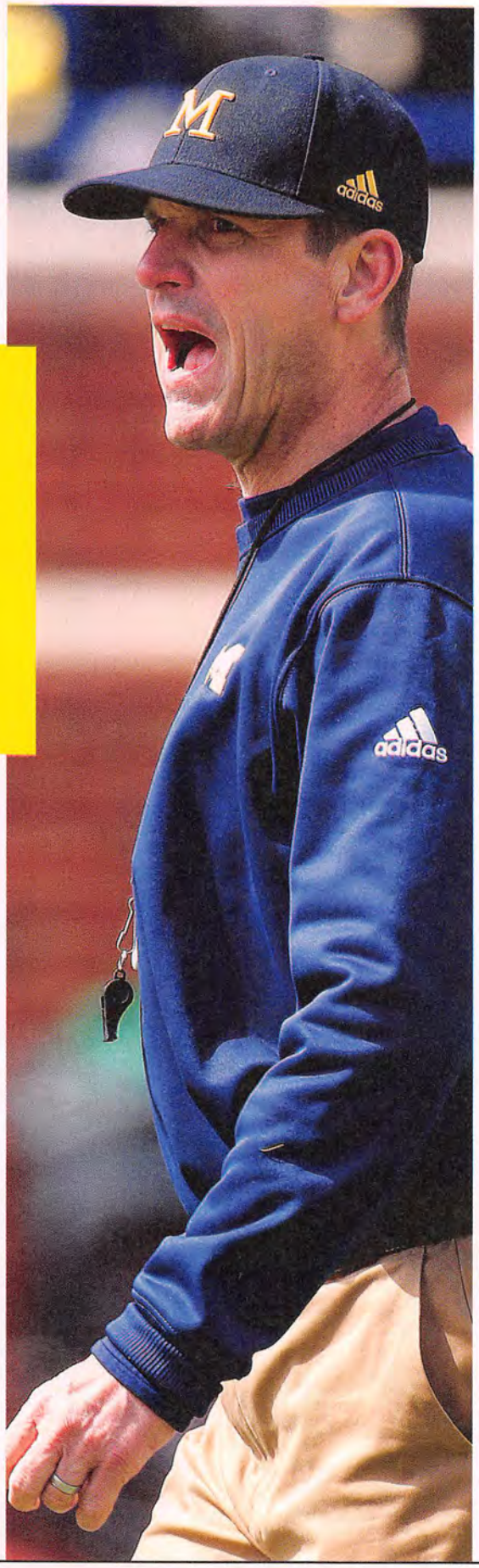
It's just bread until you taste it.



COACHING CAROUSEL

Fifteen programs changed hands in a relatively quiet offseason. Here's how Athlon Sports ranks the new hires.

by Mitch Light



1. JIM HARBAUGH, MICHIGAN

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

PROS: Harbaugh is a Michigan graduate who has won at a high level at every stop as a head coach. He went 29–6 in three seasons at the University of San Diego, 29–21 in four seasons (12–1 in his final year) at Stanford and then guided the 49ers to three straight NFC Championship Games.

CONS: Harbaugh can be a bit abrasive and seems to be the type of coach who will wear out his welcome after four or five years.

FINAL ANALYSIS: With Michigan's two key rivals at the top of their games — Ohio State won the 2014 national title and Michigan State has averaged 10.6 wins over the last five seasons — there is enormous pressure on Harbaugh to deliver a winner. It might take a few years, but there is little doubt that he will be successful in Ann Arbor. He is the complete package and one of the few sure things in the world of coaching.

2. GARY ANDERSEN, OREGON STATE

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, WISCONSIN

PROS: Andersen built Utah State into one of the top non-Power 5 programs in the nation and then went 19–7 in two seasons at Wisconsin. In his last four years as a head coach, both his offenses and defenses have been ranked in the top three in their respective leagues.

CONS: Not many. Andersen's reputation took a bit of a hit when he admitted that Wisconsin's high academic standards for its athletes was one of the reasons he decided to leave for Oregon State.

FINAL ANALYSIS: In one of the most shocking coaching moves in decades, Andersen voluntarily left Wisconsin — one of the better jobs in the Big Ten — for Oregon State. Yes, Oregon State has made considerable progress the past two decades, but it's still one of the more difficult jobs in a Power 5 conference. You can question Andersen's motivation, but this is a great hire by the Oregon State administration.

3. TOM HERMAN, HOUSTON

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, OHIO STATE

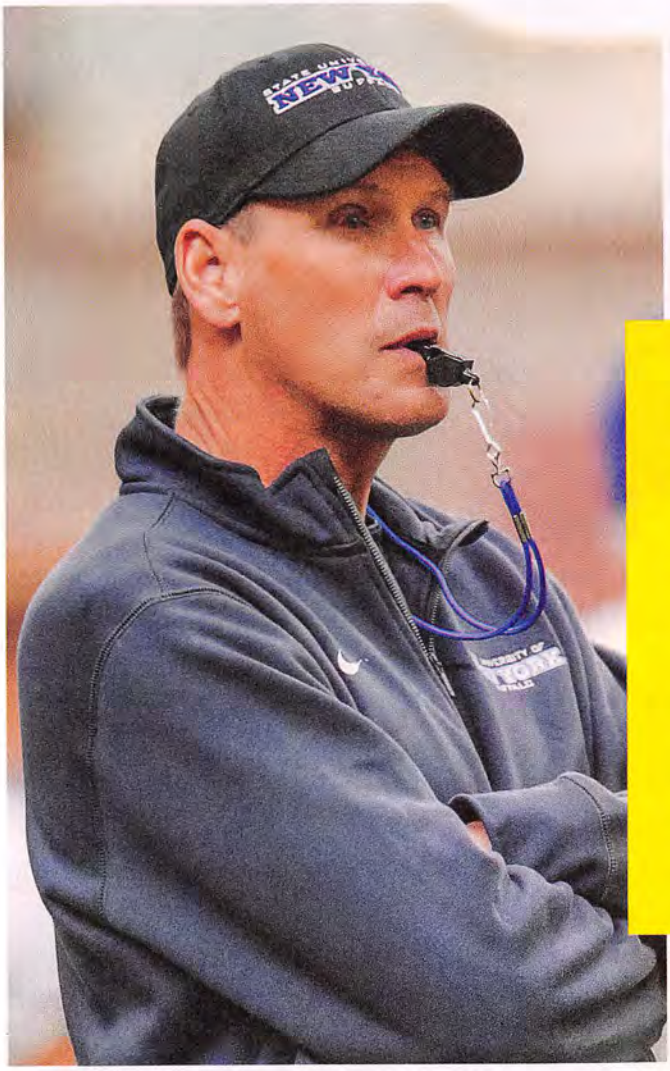
PROS: You'd be hard-pressed to find an assistant coach who had a more impressive 2014 season. Herman not only served as Ohio State's offensive coordinator, but he was also the Buckeyes' quarterback coach. Playing most of the season with a backup quarterback (J.T. Barrett) and the final three games with a third-string quarterback (Cardale Jones), Ohio State ranked ninth nationally in total offense (511.6 ypg) and fifth in scoring offense (44.8 ppg). Oh, and the Buckeyes won the national championship. Herman also has spent the first 11 years of his career coaching in the state of Texas.

CONS: None, other than his lack of experience as a head coach.

FINAL ANALYSIS: You never know how a coach will transition from the role of coordinator to the CEO of a program, but it will be a significant surprise if Herman is not successful at Houston. He is a proven play-caller

Harbaugh: Gregory Shamus/Getty Images; Leipold: Paul Hokanson/UBBulls.com

who spent three years working for Urban Meyer, one of the top coaches in the game. He should be able to attract top offensive talent to Houston and will make the Cougars one of the elite programs in the American Athletic Conference.



4. CHAD MORRIS, SMU

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, CLEMSON

PROS: Morris enjoyed a highly successful four-year run as the offensive coordinator at Clemson. The Tigers ranked 10th in the ACC in total offense the year prior to his arrival and then ranked in the top two in three of the next four seasons. Prior to jumping to the collegiate ranks in 2010 — for a one-year stint as the offensive coordinator at Tulsa — he was a head coach at five different Texas high schools over a 16-year period.

CONS: None, other than the fear that Morris would bolt for a bigger job — likely in the state of Texas — after a few years.

FINAL ANALYSIS: SMU is fortunate to land one of the true rising stars in the coaching ranks. Morris has deep ties in the state and will attract top-flight offensive talent to run his version of the spread. To win consistently in the AAC, the Mustangs will have to play a little defense, and Morris realizes there is more to the game than rolling up 600 yards of offense.

5. PAT NARDUZZI, PITTSBURGH

PREVIOUS JOB: DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR, MICHIGAN STATE

PROS: Narduzzi was arguably the most well-respected coordinator in the nation the last few seasons. His defenses ranked first in the Big Ten each season from 2011-13 before dropping to fourth in '14. He is a Connecticut native who has spent the bulk of his coaching career in Ohio and Michigan.

CONS: He has never been a head coach on any level.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Narduzzi, who played an integral role in Michigan State's climb to national prominence, appears to be the ideal fit for Pittsburgh. His teams will be built on defense and a power-rushing attack — a style that should play well in the Steel City. There is always some risk when you hire a first-time head coach, but Narduzzi was a solid choice for a Pittsburgh program in desperate need of stability.

6. LANCE LEIPOLD, BUFFALO

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

PROS: You like winners? Well, you'll like Leipold, who compiled an astounding 109–6 record in eight seasons at Division III Wisconsin-Whitewater. His teams went a combined 53–3 in conference games (with two of the losses coming in 2012) and won six national championships. Leipold is an offensive-minded coach who favors a pro-style attack.

CONS: Buffalo might not be Alabama, but it is still a huge jump from the non-scholarship Division III ranks to an FCS school. He spent time at Wisconsin (as a graduate assistant) and Nebraska (as an administrative assistant) but has never been an on-the-field assistant at a Division I school.

FINAL ANALYSIS: There were other hires that garnered bigger headlines, but this is the most intriguing move on the 2015 coaching carousel. Leipold's record at his alma mater is so good that it's almost unbelievable. This was a risk worth taking by Buffalo athletic director Danny White.

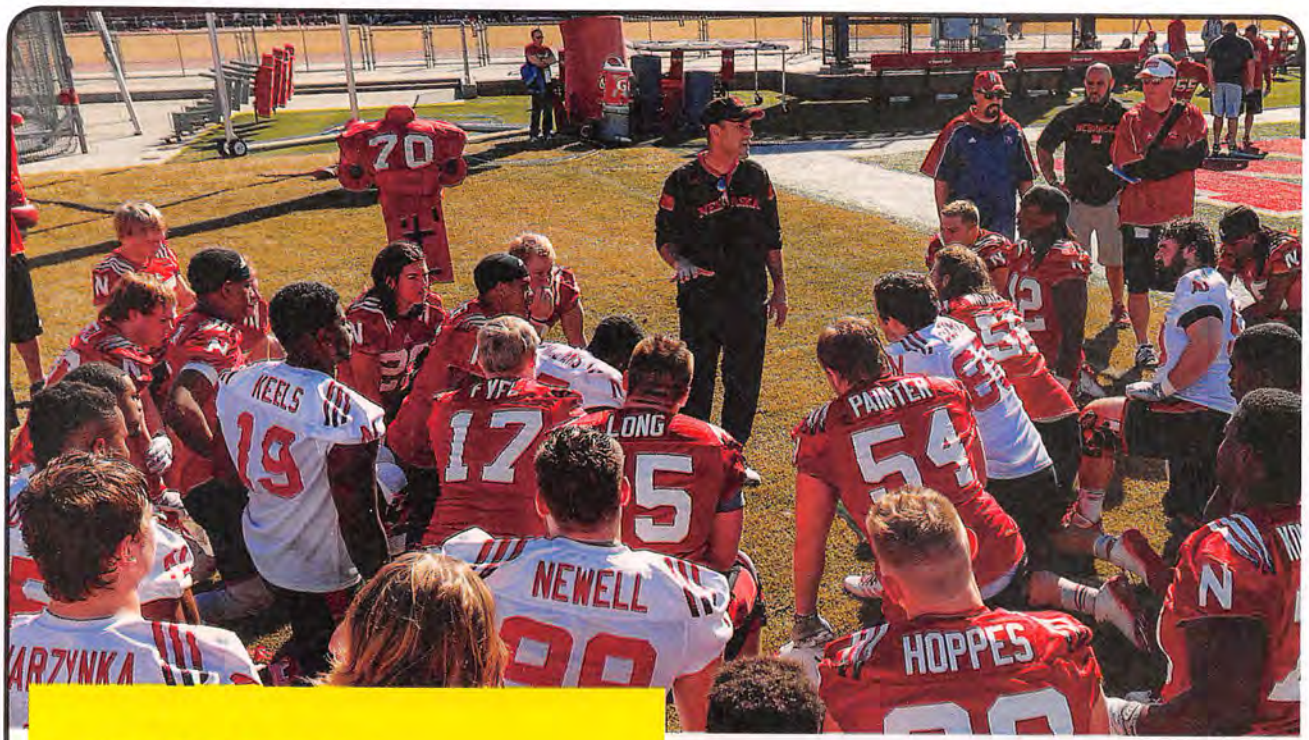
7. JIM MCELWAIN, FLORIDA

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, COLORADO STATE

PROS: McElwain quickly rebuilt Colorado State into one of the top programs in the Mountain West Conference. The Rams went 4–8 in his first season before going 8–6 in 2013 — their first winning season since 2008 — and breaking through with a 10–2 mark in the regular season in 2014. McElwain ran an entertaining offense that averaged 321.6 passing yards per game last fall. Prior to his arrival at CSU, he spent four seasons on Nick Saban's staff at Alabama as the Crimson Tide's offensive coordinator.

CONS: McElwain is highly respected in the coaching fraternity but isn't the huge name that many Florida fans craved. He's never been known for his recruiting prowess.

FINAL ANALYSIS: After watching the Gators struggle to put points on the board during the Will Muschamp era, Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley had no choice but to target a coach with an offensive background. In McElwain, he found a man who has had success as a head coach and been a coordinator at a school that won multiple national titles. McElwain might not be a sure thing — few coaches are — but he appears to be the right coach at the right time in Gainesville.



8. MIKE RILEY, NEBRASKA

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, OREGON STATE

PROS: Riley accomplished something few thought was possible: He made Oregon State competitive in the Pac-12, guiding the Beavers to a winning record eight times in 14 seasons (over two stints) in Corvallis. That might not sound great, but the school suffered through 26 straight losing seasons prior to his arrival in 1997. And even when Oregon State didn't win at a high level, the Beavers were usually entertaining. Sean Mannion, OSU's quarterback for most of the past four seasons, is the Pac-12's all-time leading passer. Riley and his staff recruited the state of Texas very well and always seemed to find underrated recruits who blossomed at Oregon State (the Rodgers brothers, for example).

CONS: Riley has had a losing conference record in four of the past five seasons and has an overall mark of 58–63 in the Pac-12. Also, he's 61, the oldest of the 15 first-year coaches by eight years.

FINAL ANALYSIS: There are two schools of thought regarding this hire — and both are valid. On one hand, Riley is a tough sell to the Nebraska faithful; he's five games under .500 in league games in his career and failed to win a conference (or division) title in 14 seasons as a head coach. On the other hand, he guided Oregon State to a 25–11 Pac-12 record during one four-year stretch (2006-09). You have to be a great coach to enjoy that type of success at that school. Bottom line: Riley is a very good coach and a great guy. It will be interesting to see if he can win big at Nebraska.

9. PAUL CHRYST, WISCONSIN

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, PITTSBURGH

PROS: Chryst is a Wisconsin grad who enjoyed tremendous success as the Badgers' offensive coordinator from 2005-11. Wisconsin led the Big Ten in scoring offense in each of his final three seasons and ranked first in total offense in both 2009 and '11. Last season, Pittsburgh ranked third in the ACC in both rushing offense and total offense.

CONS: In three years at Pitt, Chryst went a mediocre 19–19 with a 10–13 mark in conference play (one year in the Big East, two in the ACC).

FINAL ANALYSIS: Chryst emerged as the obvious frontrunner after Gary Andersen's surprising move to Oregon State. But would he have been a viable candidate if he did not have any ties to Wisconsin? Not likely. His tenure at Pittsburgh wasn't bad by any stretch, but it wasn't exactly good, either. His teams never won more than seven games and didn't improve much as the season progressed. He might do very well at Wisconsin — the three previous coaches have won at a high level — but Chryst is far from a proven commodity.

10. MIKE BOBO, COLORADO STATE

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, GEORGIA

PROS: Bobo spent 21 of the past 22 years affiliated with the Georgia Bulldogs, one of the most consistently competitive programs in the nation. Since being promoted to offensive coordinator in 2007, Bobo wasn't always beloved by Georgia fans, but his offenses were highly productive behind a stellar series of quarterbacks. The Bulldogs led the SEC in yards per play twice in the last three years and finished fourth or better in that category five times in eight years.

CONS: Other than one season as the quarterbacks coach at Jacksonville State, Bobo has no experience at any other program. Georgia is one of the elite programs in the nation; it's hard not to be successful with the type of players the school attracts. Will that success translate to a school without the same resources and tradition?

FINAL ANALYSIS: Despite spending eight years as the offensive coordinator at a high-profile SEC school, Bobo was not often mentioned as a candidate for head-coaching duties. While he might not be a great fit geographically — he's never lived outside the Southeast — Bobo will run a pro-style offense that is similar to what the Rams operated during the Jim McElwain era. The transition should be relatively smooth.

Riley: Nebraska Athletics; Sanchez: UNLV Athletics

11. PHILIP MONTGOMERY, TULSA

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, BAYLOR

PROS: Montgomery has been by Art Briles' side dating back to their days at Stephenville (Texas) High School in the late 1990s. Montgomery made the move to the collegiate ranks to join Briles' staff at Houston in 2003 and followed his boss to Baylor in 2008. With Montgomery calling the plays, the Bears ranked first in the nation in total offense in 2013 and '14 and second in '11 and '12.

CONS: Montgomery has never been a head coach on any level, and he's only worked for one man — and been exposed to one system — in his 12 seasons as a college assistant.

FINAL ANALYSIS: After learning from one of the best in the business for almost two decades, Montgomery has an opportunity to run his own program. The expectations are high at Tulsa, which averaged nine wins from 2005-12 before slumping to three wins in '13 and two last season. Montgomery has everything you would look for in a head coach (aside from prior experience as a head coach). He's been a part of successful programs and called plays for an elite offensive attack. This is a quality hire for Tulsa.

12. NEAL BROWN, TROY

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, KENTUCKY

PROS: Brown is one of the bright young offensive minds in the game, and he has four years of experience at Troy. He served as the Trojans' inside receivers coach in 2006-07 before being promoted to offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach for the next two seasons. Troy ranked second in the Sun Belt in total offense in 2008 and first in '09 — his two seasons as the play-caller. He runs a version of the Air Raid offense that he learned from Hal Mumme at Kentucky in the late 1990s.

CONS: College football is a young man's game, but Brown is very, very young. At 34, he will be the second-youngest head coach in the FBS ranks.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Troy is making its first coaching change since 1990, when Larry Blakeney took over for Robert Maddox. Brown isn't a household name by any stretch, but he has built a nice résumé, with stints as a coordinator at two Power 5 conference schools (Texas Tech and UK) by the age of 34. He should add some energy to a program that had grown stale in the final years of the Blakeney era.

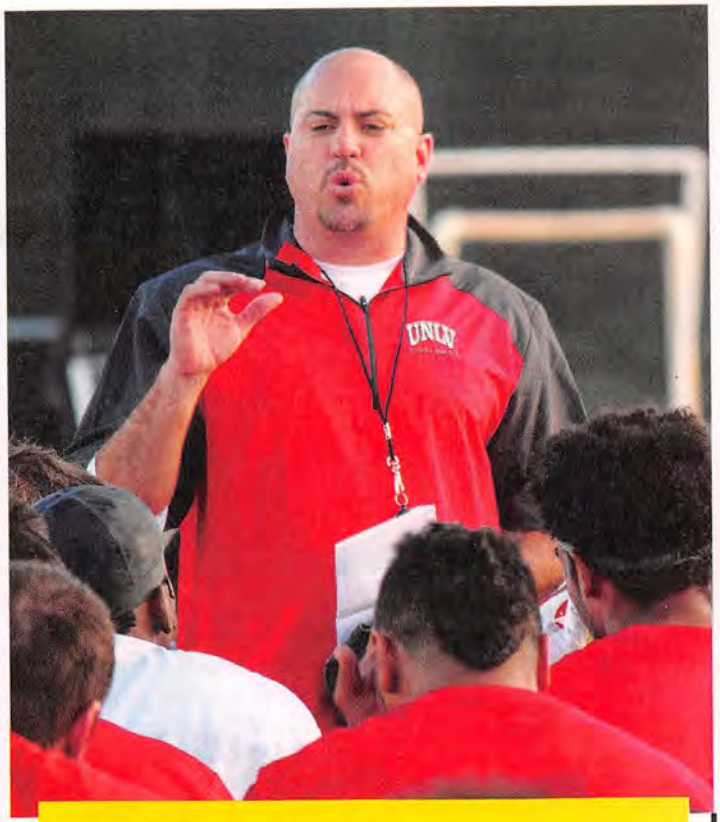
13. DAVID BEATY, KANSAS

PREVIOUS JOB: WIDE RECEIVERS COACH, TEXAS A&M

PROS: Beaty is an outstanding recruiter who has ties to the Kansas program, having served as wide receivers coach and co-offensive coordinator for the Jayhawks in 2011. He is well-connected in the state of Texas — he was a head coach at two high schools and was an assistant at Rice and A&M — and that will no doubt be a huge focus of Kansas' recruiting efforts.

CONS: When Kliff Kingsbury left Texas A&M to take over at Texas Tech, Beaty was bypassed for offensive coordinator, even though he had experience in this role — in favor of the younger, less-experienced Jake Spavital, hired from West Virginia.

FINAL ANALYSIS: In a vacuum, Beaty looks to be a solid hire for Kansas. But it's a bit worrisome from Kansas' perspective that both SMU and Houston — two schools from non-Power 5 conferences — were able to hire candidates with more impressive résumés. By any measure, Chad Morris (SMU) and Tom Herman (Houston) were more attractive options.



14. TONY SANCHEZ, UNLV

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, BISHOP GORMAN (NEV.) HIGH SCHOOL

PROS: Sanchez went 85–5 in six seasons with six state championships as the head coach at nearby Bishop Gorman High. At any level, a .944 winning percentage is very impressive. To compensate for his lack of experience in the collegiate ranks, Sanchez hired veteran coordinators Barney Cotton (offense) and Kent Baer (defense) to help him with the transition to college football.

CONS: Sanchez has one year of experience in the collegiate ranks, as a graduate assistant at New Mexico State in 1996.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Sanchez is joining a very small fraternity of men who have made the jump from high school football to college head coach. The four previous members — Ray Lester (Maryland) Bob Commings (Iowa), Gerry Faust (Notre Dame) and Todd Dodge (North Texas) — went a combined 61–125–1 before losing their respective jobs. Does this mean Sanchez will not succeed? Of course not, but history — the aforementioned record and the lack of success of his predecessors at UNLV — is not on his side.

15. JOHN BONAMEGO, CENTRAL MICHIGAN

PREVIOUS JOB: SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR, DETROIT LIONS

PROS: Bonamego is a Central Michigan alum who has 16 years of experience coaching in the NFL.

CONS: Bonamego has not coached in the collegiate ranks since 1998, when he was an assistant at Army. He has done nothing but serve as a special teams coach in his 16 season in the NFL.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Eleven years ago, Central Michigan made one of the best hires in recent memory, plucking a little-known Division II head coach named Brian Kelly away from Grand Valley State. This time around, the CMU administration made a far less inspiring hire. Bonamego is a Central Michigan alum, but there's little to suggest he will be a successful head coach at the FBS level.

EXTRA POINTS

TOP QB BATTLES


ANTHONY JENNINGS

ALABAMA At this point last season, Florida State transfer Jake Coker appeared to be Alabama's starting quarterback even though he hadn't taken a snap during the spring. Instead, Blake Sims took the job as a senior and never let go, setting a school single-season record for passing yards. Sims won the job in part because of a greater grasp of the offense, and now Coker, a prototypical drop-back passer, has had a season in the system. He won't have the job simply handed to him, though. Redshirt freshman David Cornwell played well late in spring practice and will get a long look in the fall. The Oklahoma native has great size (6'5", 240) and has been in the program since the spring of 2014. Blake Barnett, a five-star recruit, enrolled in the spring but is likely headed toward a redshirt season in 2015. **Predicted winner:** Coker

FLORIDA The Gators' quarterback situation has been questionable since Tim Tebow left in 2009. That hasn't changed simply because Florida hired a new coach. Jim McElwain inherits sophomore Treon Harris, who gave the offense a spark in his six starts late last season. Veteran Jeff Driskel transferred to Louisiana Tech, putting Harris into a competition with talented redshirt freshman Will Grier. Harris missed part of spring practice due to a death in the family, and Grier seemed to take the lead. Grier was one of the nation's top quarterback prospects in 2014 and may be a better fit for McElwain's traditional pro-style offense. Harris helped improve the offense last season, but he completed just 49.5 percent of his 111 passes. **Projected winner:** Grier

GEORGIA Georgia has rarely faced a genuine quarterback competition in recent years. Multi-year starters (Aaron Murray, Matthew Stafford, David Greene) have been replaced by seasoned backups (Hutson Mason, Joe Cox, D.J. Shockley) for most of the Mark Richt era. This spring may be different, in part because of the arrival of new coordinator Brian Schottenheimer. He replaces Mike Bobo, Georgia's quarterbacks coach for the entire Mark Richt era. Schottenheimer has to find a replacement for Mason, likely sophomore Brice Ramsey or junior Faton Bauta. Ramsey was Mason's backup last season and has the edge in experience (39 career passes). Bauta quickly narrowed the gap during the spring and offers an interesting skill set with his mobility. In years past under Bobo, Ramsey would be the logical pick. A new coach, though, gives this contest more intrigue. **Projected winner:** Ramsey

LOUISVILLE Starting three quarterbacks in its first season in the ACC probably wasn't ideal for Louisville last season, but the Cardinals still managed to win nine regular-season games. The situation is no less settled heading into Louisville's second season in the league. In fact, Louisville has an extra variable in the mix. Will Gardner, Reggie Bonnafon and Kyle Bolin all started games last season, and they're all back. Tyler Ferguson, who sat out last season after his transfer from Penn State, is the fourth contender. Gardner, a junior, is the most experienced, but he sustained a torn ACL in November and didn't participate in spring drills. Given his history of knee injuries, his long-term prospects are unclear. Bonnafon can make plays with his legs, but his 50.8 percent completion rate was the lowest of the three who played last season. In relief of Bonnafon, Bolin went 21-of-31 for 381 yards with three touchdowns and an interception to beat Kentucky in a shootout, but he turned around to throw two picks in his start against Georgia in the bowl game. **Projected starter:** Bonnafon

LSU For the second consecutive offseason, Anthony Jennings and Brandon Harris are battling for LSU's starting quarterback job. Jennings held onto it for all but one game last season but completed only 48.9 percent of his passes. Harris is the more talented of the two and at one point appeared to be ready to take charge. He went 6-of-9 for 140 yards with two touchdowns in a failed comeback bid against Mississippi State and then followed up with a strong showing in relief of Jennings in a win over New Mexico State. However, he then turned around to go 3-of-14 against Auburn in his only career start. Now in his second year in the program, Harris will try to prove to the coaching staff he can beat out the junior Jennings. **Projected winner:** Jennings

Jennings: Layne Murdoch, Golson: Tom Lynn

MICHIGAN New coach Jim Harbaugh was instrumental in the development of Andrew Luck at Stanford, and it's hard to imagine he'll have subpar play at the position. Shane Morris ended the spring as the leader, but his hold is tenuous. Morris, who has completed 43-of-87 passes for 389 yards with no touchdowns and five interceptions in his career, held off challenges from true freshman Alex Malzone and redshirt freshman Wilton Speight during the spring. The big question will be in the fall. In a rare in-conference transfer, Michigan will add fifth-year senior Jake Rudock from Iowa. Rudock started 25 games the last two seasons for Iowa but had fallen behind C.J. Beathard entering the 2015 season. Coaches say four-star freshman Zach Gentry will also have a shot at the job. **Projected winner:** Rudock

NOTRE DAME Everett Golson returned to Notre Dame after a year away, and suddenly the efficient quarterback from the 2012 season became turnover prone. Golson threw 14 interceptions and fumbled 10 times, losing eight of them, before Brian Kelly started integrating Malik Zaire into the offense. Zaire led Notre Dame to a score in his first drive against USC and then earned bowl MVP honors after accounting for 192 yards of total offense while splitting time with Golson in a win over LSU. For Golson to win the job, he'll need to show he can limit his turnovers; for Zaire to win, he'll need to show he can be an effective enough passer to complement his running ability. **Projected Winner:** Golson

OHIO STATE Urban Meyer has either one of the greatest quarterback depth charts in recent college football history or one of the biggest personnel dilemmas — or both. And this is the same coach who at one point had Tim Tebow and Cam Newton on the same roster at Florida. Entering 2015, Meyer will have to choose from among the quarterback who won a Big Ten championship game, a Sugar Bowl and a national championship game (Cardale Jones); the quarterback who won 11 games and set school records for touchdown passes and total offense (J.T. Barrett); and a senior who was twice named All-Big Ten (Braxton Miller). Meyer has the kind of problems other coaches would envy. Miller and Barrett are coming off shoulder injuries, so the less-experienced Jones had the spring to catch up. That may ultimately be the difference. **Projected winner:** Jones

OKLAHOMA All parties have a fresh start with the arrival of offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley, who ran the Air Raid offense at East Carolina. Trevor Knight is still on the roster, as is his replacement for three games last season. Cody Thomas quarterbacked wins over Texas Tech and Kansas, games that were more notable for Samaje Perine's rushing totals than anything Thomas accomplished. Baker Mayfield is also ready after sitting out last season (and losing a year of eligibility) following his transfer from Texas Tech. The former walk-on passed for 2,315 yards, 12 touchdowns and nine interceptions in eight games at Tech in 2013. Redshirt freshman Justice Hansen is also in the mix. **Projected winner:** Mayfield

OLE MISS In three seasons at Ole Miss, Hugh Freeze has had one starting quarterback. Bo Wallace could be erratic at times, but he was entrenched at the position. That changed this spring when Freeze needed to find Wallace's successor. The favorite for the job — at least on ability alone — is Chad Kelly. That's not without risk, though. The nephew of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly was dismissed from Clemson for "unacceptable conduct" and was sentenced to community service after an altercation outside of a Buffalo, N.Y., nightclub. Sophomores Ryan Buchanan and DeVante Kincade have both been in the system but attempted a combined 42 passes last season. **Projected winner:** Kelly

OREGON Could this be a similar situation to that of Alabama last season? The Crimson Tide lost a successful quarterback and looked to a transfer to claim the position. The job seemed to be the transfer's to lose, but the incumbent backup used his knowledge of the system and trust in the locker room to hang onto the job. That's where Jeff Lockie is. Lockie backed up Heisman winner Marcus Mariota for two seasons, throwing only 41 passes during that time. Vernon Adams transferred from



EVERETT GOLSON

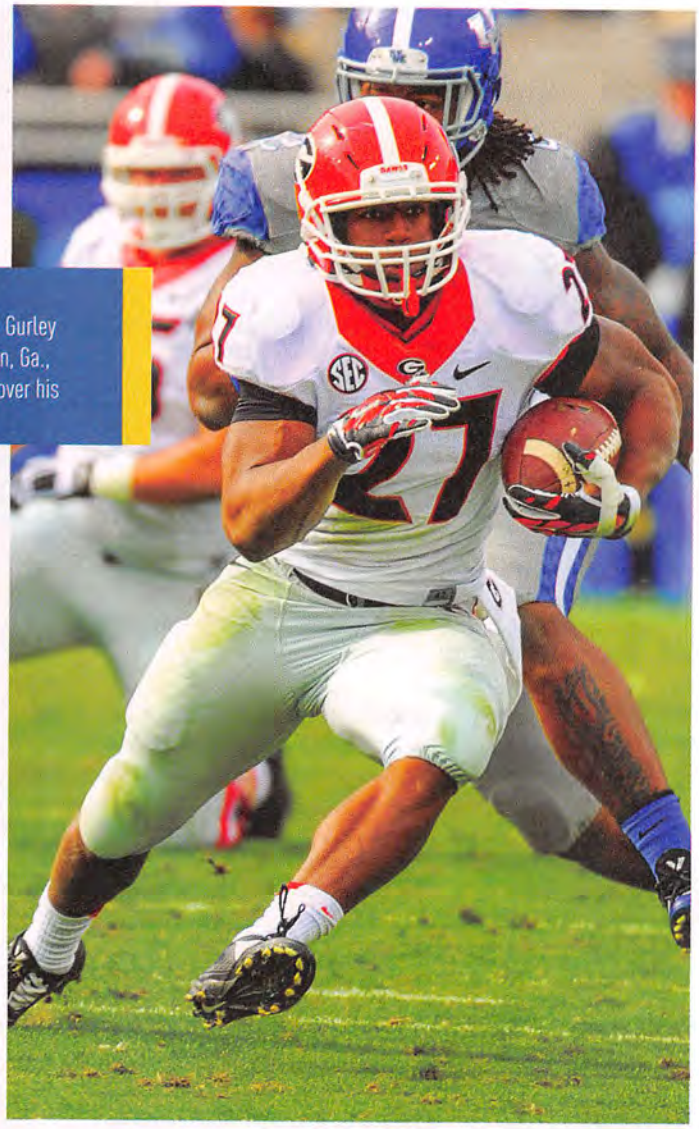
Eastern Washington, where he passed for 10,433 career yards and 110 touchdowns for the Eagles. Adams led the No. 3 offense in the FCS last season, and although he ran a spread, he'll need time to get acclimated to Oregon since he did not go through spring practice with the Ducks. **Projected Winner:** Adams

SOUTH CAROLINA Steve Spurrier was not particularly encouraged by what he saw in spring practice from his quarterbacks, and there's not much of a track record for any of them. Connor Mitch has thrown six career passes and got most of the work during spring. Perry Orth is a former walk-on, and Michael Scarnecchia is a redshirt freshman. Mitch is plenty talented, but he hasn't been able to claim the starting job — or last year's backup job — with any sense of certainty. Athletic freshman Lorenzo Nunez will be on board in the fall. **Projected winner:** Mitch

TEXAS The Texas quarterback conundrum stretches into yet another season. Tyrone Swoopes appeared to be on the right track early last season, but he finished the year with four interceptions against TCU and then a 57-yard performance against Arkansas in the bowl game. Coach Charlie Strong re-opened the competition at the position during the spring, a development that worked out for both Swoopes and redshirt freshman Jerrod Heard. Swoopes' confidence and maturity seemed to improve, while Heard, a top-100 prospect in the class of 2013, is closer to being ready. Texas adds four-star freshman Kai Locksley in the fall. **Projected winner:** Swoopes

UCLA All Jerry Neuheisel or Josh Rosen has to do is step into the shoes of UCLA career total offense leader Brett Hundley at quarterback and lead an offense that returns every other starter for a team expected to contend for the Pac-12. No pressure. Neuheisel is a junior who backed up Hundley for two seasons. He already has a marquee win — and game-winning touchdown drive — under his belt. Against Texas last season, he stepped in for Hundley to complete 23-of-30 passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns. Rosen is clearly the quarterback of the future, arriving from Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco as 247Sports' No. 1 quarterback in the 2015 class. Rosen, who arrived in time for spring practice, will enter preseason camp as the favorite to win the job. **Projected winner:** Rosen

HEISMAN TROPHY CONTENDERS



1. NICK CHUBB, RB, GEORGIA
Chubb was thrust into a prominent role as a true freshman after Todd Gurley missed significant time due to a suspension and injury. The Cedartown, Ga., native led the SEC with 7.1 yards per carry and averaged 172.9 yards over his final seven games against FBS opponents.

2. TREVONE BOYKIN, QB, TCU
Boykin was perhaps the most improved player in the nation last season. Operating the Horned Frogs' new up-tempo attack to near perfection, he threw for 3,901 yards with 33 touchdowns and 10 interceptions and added 707 rushing yards and eight scores on the ground.

3. EZEKIEL ELLIOTT, RB, OHIO STATE
Elliott ended his sophomore season on an amazing three-game run, rushing for a combined 696 yards (on a 9.2-yard average) in wins over Wisconsin (Big Ten Championship Game), Alabama (CFB Semifinal) and Oregon (CFB Championship Game).

3A. OHIO STATE'S QUARTERBACK
We're not sure who will be the No. 1 quarterback at Ohio State, but there's no doubt the Buckeyes' signal-caller will put up monster numbers for a team that is going to win a ton of games.

4. LEONARD FOURNETTE, RB, LSU
Fournette rushed for 1,034 yards on a 5.5-yard average as a true freshman, but we didn't see the former No. 1 running back recruit at his best until late in the season. He rushed for 100-plus yards in three of his final five games, including a combined 289 on a 9.6-yard average in his last two.

5. CODY KESSLER, QB, USC
Kessler quietly enjoyed an outstanding junior season, throwing for 3,826 yards with a 39-to-5 touchdown-to-interception ratio while completing just under 70 percent of his attempts. He threw at least four touchdowns in six of his 13 games.

6. DERRICK HENRY, RB, ALABAMA
Henry should thrive in his first season as the Crimson Tide's No. 1 running back. After a rather ordinary (for him) start to the 2014 season, Henry rushed for 400 yards on an 8.0-yard average in Alabama's final four games.

7. DAK PRESCOTT, QB, MISSISSIPPI STATE
Prescott enjoyed a breakthrough junior season for the surprising Bulldogs. The Louisiana native threw for 3,449 yards and 27 touchdowns and rushed for 986 yards and 14 scores.

8. JEREMY JOHNSON, QB, AUBURN
Johnson has shown in spot duty that he can be a big-time player in the SEC. In six games (one start), he completed 28-of-37 passes for 436 yards with three TDs and no interceptions. He is poised for a big season.

9. DALVIN COOK, RB, FLORIDA STATE
Cook emerged as the Seminoles' primary ball-carrier late in his true freshman season. He rushed for 1,008 yards (including 424 in his last three games) and eight touchdowns.

10. DESHAUN WATSON, QB, CLEMSON
Watson was outstanding in limited duty as a true freshman in 2014. He will be adjusting to a new offensive coordinator — Tony Elliott and Jeff Scott takes over for Chad Morris — but the Tigers offense will still be a quarterback-friendly attack.

NEXT TIER

11. Connor Cook, QB, Michigan State
12. Samaje Perine, RB, Oklahoma
13. Paul Perkins, RB, UCLA
14. Royce Freeman, RB, Oregon
15. Corey Clement, RB, Wisconsin
16. James Conner, RB, Pittsburgh
17. Kyle Allen, QB, Texas A&M
18. Brad Kaaya, QB, Miami
19. Jalen Hurd, RB, Tennessee
20. Nick Wilson, RB, Arizona
21. Laquon Treadwell, WR, Ole Miss
22. Duke Williams, WR, Auburn
23. Alex Collins, RB, Arkansas
24. Taysom Hill, QB, BYU
25. Anu Solomon, QB, Arizona

Chubb: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Cook: Joe Robbins

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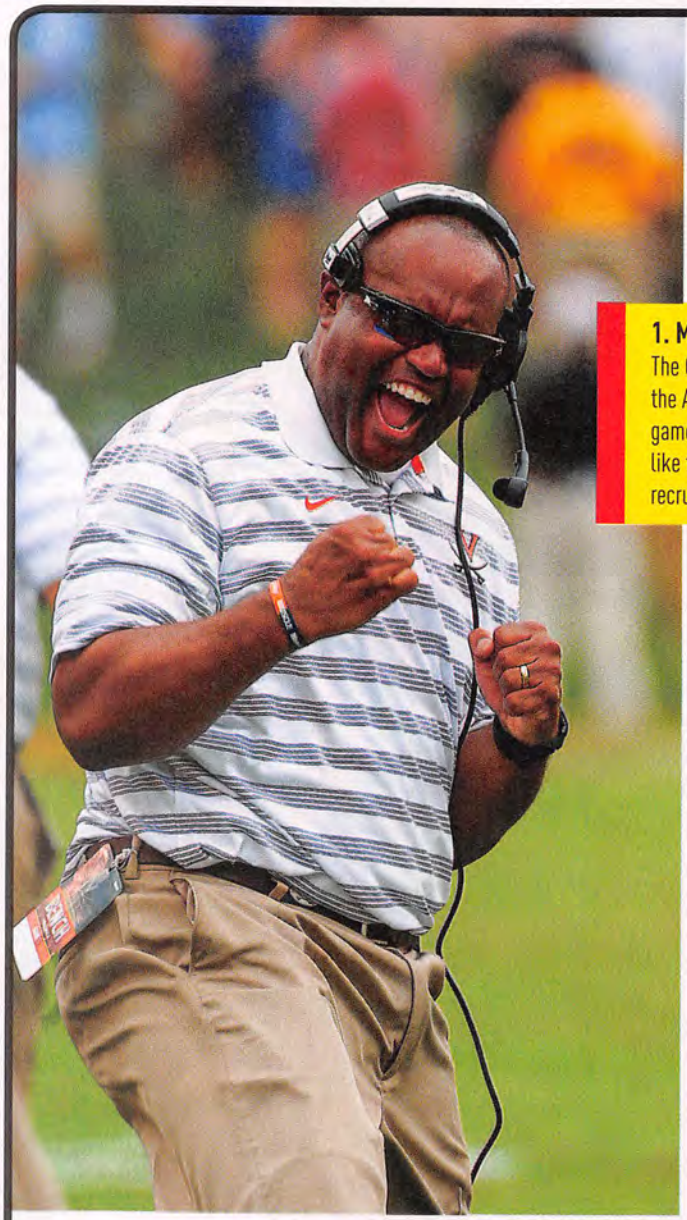
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COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

1. Mike London, Virginia (23–38, FIVE SEASONS)
The Cavaliers made significant progress in 2014 — improving from 0–8 to 3–5 in the ACC — but the overall numbers for London are still very poor. He has won four games or fewer in three of his five seasons and is 11–29 in ACC games. And it's not like the Cavs don't have any talent; Virginia has finished in the top six in the ACC in recruiting (according to the 247Composite in each of the last four years).

2. Tim Beckman, Illinois (12–25, THREE SEASONS)
After beginning his tenure with one win in his first 19 Big Ten games, Beckman guided the Fighting Illini to wins over Minnesota, Penn State and Northwestern in the final five weeks of the regular season. Despite that late run, Beckman's job is far from secure. Illinois needs to show dramatic improvement on defense after ranking last in the Big Ten and 112th nationally in 2014.

3. Norm Chow, Hawaii (8–29, THREE SEASONS)
Chow's first two seasons as a head coach were a disaster (4–20 overall, 1–15 in the MW). His third season was an improvement — yet hardly a reason to excited. The Rainbow Warriors went 4–9 overall and 3–5 in the league, with the three wins coming over teams that went a combined 5–19 in the MW.

4. Al Golden, Miami (28–22, FOUR SEASONS)
Golden is a rather mediocre 16–16 in a mediocre (at best) ACC during his four seasons at Miami. The Hurricanes continue to recruit at a high level — each of their classes from 2012-14 were ranked second in the ACC — but the results have not followed. Golden might not be able to survive another .500 season.

5. Ron Caragher, San Jose State (9–15, TWO SEASONS)
The Spartans are trending in the wrong direction under the man who took over for Jim Harbaugh at the University of San Diego in 2007. San Jose State went 10–2 under Mike MacIntyre in 2012 but regressed to 6–6 in '13 (Caragher's first season) and 3–9 last season. The Spartans ended the '14 season on a six-game slide and scored a total of 14 points in their last three games.

6. Kevin Wilson, Indiana (14–34, FOUR SEASONS)
Wilson's teams have been fun to watch — the Hoosiers have ranked in the top five in the Big Ten in total offense in each of the last three seasons — but he has yet to break through and take Indiana to a bowl game. The 2014 season was derailed due to a defection (Tre Roberson) and injury (Nate Sudfeld) at the quarterback position.

7. Kirk Ferentz, Iowa (115–85, 16 SEASONS)
Ferentz has won a lot of games at Iowa and has a contract that makes him almost unfireable, but the natives are not pleased with the direction of the program. After enjoying a mini-renaissance in the late 2000s, Iowa has averaged 6.5 wins over the last four years and has had only one winning Big Ten season (5–3 in '13) during that stretch despite having very favorable league schedules in the past two seasons.

8. Paul Haynes, Kent State (6–17, TWO SEASONS)
Kent State became relevant under Darrell Hazell, winning 16 games in two seasons. Under Haynes, the Golden Flashes returned to the lower tier of the MAC, winning three league games in 2013 and only one last season.

9. Ron Turner, FIU (5–19, TWO SEASONS)
After winning only one game in 2013, FIU showed signs of life in Turner's second season, improving to four wins overall with a 3–5 mark in Conference USA.

10. Willie Taggart, USF (6–18, TWO SEASONS)
Taggart, a Bradenton, Fla., native, seemed to be a perfect fit at South Florida. So far, however, it hasn't happened. The Bulls have won only six games in two seasons and none of the six wins has come by more than eight points. USF scored 20 points or fewer in 10 of its 11 games against FBS opponents last season.

GETTING WARM

Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
Bob Davie, New Mexico
Kyle Flood, Rutgers
Darrell Hazell, Purdue
Doug Martin, New Mexico State
Derek Mason, Vanderbilt
Paul Rhoads, Iowa State
Scott Shafer, Syracuse



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Predictive POWERS

We take a deep dive and look at how four factors — recent performance, the number of returning starters, recruiting success and luck — can be used to forecast a team's success.

by Bill Connelly

We think we know. We act like we know. But we do really know what makes a team good?

In 2014, Florida State lost four starters from its defensive front seven and regressed dramatically in run defense. Oklahoma State returned just eight total starters and went from the top 20 to barely bowl eligible.

Ohio State went from very good to great in recruiting and did the same on the field. Texas' recruiting regressed, and the Longhorns obtained just middling success under a new coach.

Alabama was awesome in 2013 and remained awesome in 2014.

We think we know how to figure out who's going to be good or bad from year to year, who's going to surge or collapse — and we're mostly correct. You start with how good a team was last year, then you look at returning starters (and stars), then you look at recruiting, and voila! We love that you purchased this publication, but virtually any preview of any kind is going to take that approximate approach.

But how much of a difference do these factors make? Are we ignoring other key indicators when we look at whether a team will improve or regress? Are we overvaluing the starters who left or those who return? And are we interpreting recruiting rankings the right way?

To begin to answer these questions, we're going run some correlations. Remember those from math class? How a correlation of zero means there's no relationship between variables, but a correlation approaching 1 or negative-1 means the relationship is strong?

Let's look at the strength of the correlations between a given indicator — returning starters, last year's output, et cetera — and two numbers: A team's percentage of points scored in a given year (it's more detailed and descriptive than simple win-loss record) and a team's advanced stats.

We'll look at percentage of points scored instead of win percentage because it is a more accurate descriptor. Florida State finished both 2013 and 2014 with a 13–0 regular-season record, but the Seminoles entered the 2013 postseason having scored 83.2 percent of the points in their games. In 2014, they had scored only 60.2 percent. One FSU team was demonstrably better than the other despite identical records.

Meanwhile, for advanced stats, we're going to lean on the work of Football Outsiders (a site for which I have played a role since 2008), namely the F/+ ratings, the official FO college football rating. F/+ compares a team's per-play and per-drive output to a baseline expectation (based on the opponent) and tells you how far above or below average that team performed. For instance, Ohio State finished 2014 ranked first in the F/+ ratings at plus-69.6 percent, Eastern Michigan finished 128th at minus-65.9 percent, and 87 of 128 teams finished between plus- and minus-30 percent.

F/+ is a healthy, robust, and (most important) opponent-adjusted number, and it is good for these purposes. But you can use your computer rating of choice, and it is likely to tell you a similar story as the one you find here.

Recent Performance

It is an undying, somewhat boring truth in college football: How you played last year is the best indicator of how you will play this year. Some teams change, but only so many do, and it is difficult to find a sport as rigid as college football, despite parity measures like the current 85-man scholarship limit.

Correlation between your F/+ rating from last year and your F/+ rating from this year: 0.742. Correlation between last year's percentage of points scored and this year's: 0.466.

In a given season, about 54 percent of FBS teams' F/+ ratings are within 15 percent of what they were the year before. Things change, and things stay the same.

But in some cases, using just last year's data can give us a blurry picture if a team suffered from injuries, suspensions, drastic turnover or any other maladies that affect teams. If we use a weighted five-year history, in which seasons from two to five years ago are given about eight to 10 percent weight each, we can raise the above F/+ correlation to about 0.747. That's not much of an improvement, but it's something.

So what does this mean for 2015? The chart to the right shows last year's top 15 teams according to F/+. A good portion of them will be in or near the top 15 again this fall.

A good system of opponent-adjusted ratings can start

Final 2014 F/+ Rankings	
1. Ohio State	(+69.6%)
2. Alabama	(+66.6%)
3. Oregon	(+58.9%)
4. Georgia	(+55.0%)
5. Ole Miss	(+50.1%)
6. TCU	(+49.3%)
7. Auburn	(+49.1%)
8. Georgia Tech	(+48.6%)
9. Arkansas	(+44.9%)
10. Baylor	(+42.2%)
11. Michigan State	(+42.1%)
12. UCLA	(+41.2%)
13. Mississippi State	(+40.6%)
14. Clemson	(+36.4%)
15. Florida State	(+35.2%)

Chris Covatta



Baylor's wealth of returning starters provides a simple but fairly predictive success metric for 2015.

the conversation in the right place. When thinking about how good a team was or wasn't the year before — the starting point of any sort of projection or prediction — something like this gives you a clearer picture than "they went 11–2."

One thing to keep in mind regarding advanced stats: Wins and losses don't mean a lot. The numbers are designed to look at every non-garbage time play and drive and project how teams may have performed over a much longer period of time, not just 12 games. Yes, Ole Miss finished ahead of TCU; that's because Ole Miss was much better than TCU for the first two months of the year before fading rather dramatically.

Returning Starters

You work with the tools you've got. Most of us understand that boiling an offense's or defense's turnover into a number between 0 and 11 is over-simplification. The quality of the backups matters, and besides, if two players start six games each at a given position, and one was a senior, is the other a "returning starter"?

There are flaws, but in a "perfect vs. good" kind of way. In the absence of perfect tools, we use decent, readily available ones. If it were possible to standardize a higher level of data — percentage of rushing yards returning, percentage of career starts on the offensive line, etc. — that would be fantastic, but even that tells us only so much about quality. We can apply extra weight to the quarterback position or to lost starters who were drafted or given All-America or all-conference honors, too, if we want to.

For now, though, we'll stick to the basics. While the standard returning starter data is flawed, it's still pretty useful:

Correlation between returning offensive starters and your advanced offensive ratings: 0.290. Correlation between returning offensive starters and your percentage of points scored: 0.254.

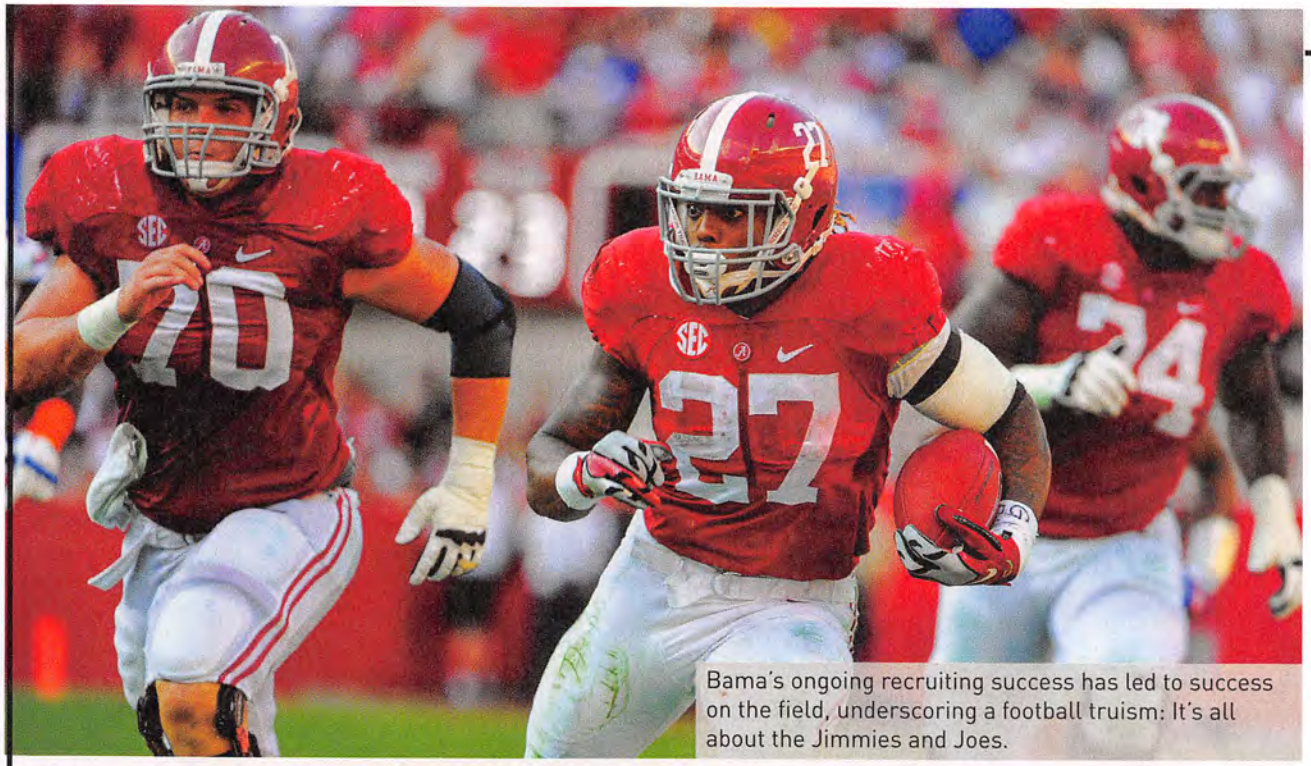
Correlation between returning defensive starters and your advanced defensive ratings: 0.271. Correlation between returning defensive starters and your percentage of points scored: 0.215.

These aren't significant correlations, but they're solid. And looking at year-to-year averages, you can see a pretty clear trend. If we convert a team's FO efficiency ratings (offensive and defensive) into a per-game point total, you can start to see the impact starter experience can have on average.

There is some blurriness on the edges — teams with four returning starters regressing more than teams with one to three,

Effect of the number offensive returning starters on a team's offensive production

Offensive Starters Returning	Pct. of all teams	Avg change in adjustment points per game	Avg change in percentage of points scored
1-3	1.9%	-4.0	-4.9%
4	5.4%	-5.0	-5.1%
5	10.9%	-1.4	-2.1%
6	21.2%	-0.9	-1.7%
7	23.6%	+0.8	+0.9%
8	20.3%	+2.0	+1.7%
9	11.2%	+3.0	+3.6%
10-11	5.3%	+1.4	+2.8%



Bama's ongoing recruiting success has led to success on the field, underscoring a football truism: It's all about the Jimmies and Joes.

teams with 10-11 returning starters improving only a marginal amount — but that's a sample size issue. There's a potential range of six to 10 points per game between those returning almost no starters and those returning almost everybody. And if you return six or seven starters, you're basically breaking even.

The lines are similar on the defensive side of the ball.

There will always be plenty of exceptions. Just last year, Wisconsin returned three defensive starters and still fielded a high-caliber unit, while TCU returned three offensive starters and improved dramatically. Those exceptions are why the correlations exist but aren't incredibly significant. But these starter figures still tell us quite a bit about where to set the bar. If the above averages held true, the chart to the right shows what kind of shifts we might see from last year's top-ranked teams.

Effect of the number defensive returning starters on a team's defensive production

Defensive Starters Returning	Pct. of all teams	Avg change in adjustment points per game	Avg change in percentage of points scored
1-3	3.7%	+4.8	-3.9%
4	8.0%	+2.2	-2.5%
5	14.7%	+1.4	-1.4%
6	19.7%	+0.7	-0.6%
7	23.6%	-0.6	+0.6%
8	16.2%	-0.4	+1.0%
9	10.6%	-2.1	+2.5%
10-11	3.5%	-2.5	+6.8%

Red alert, Mississippi State and Clemson fans. You better hope Dak Prescott and Deshaun Watson are even better (and healthier) than they were last year.

Recruiting

Recruiting rankings are worthless! Recruiting rankings are everything! Arguing about the potential and usefulness of the work Rivals, 247Sports, ESPN, Scout and others do has become a permanent part of the college football calendar each January and early February. And to be sure, these assessments are tricky.

If you're a brand-new recruiting service, and you're looking to use every piece of information available to you to craft the strongest possible prospect ratings, what's one piece of information you'd be incredibly smart to use? Offer lists. If Alabama (or Ohio State, or USC, or Florida State, or any other national power) offers a player, there are strong odds that this player is pretty good. To say the least, the Tide and others like them have track records.

Returning starters in 2015 for last year's final AP top 20 teams

Team	2014 AP Finish	Offensive & Defensive Starters returning	Last years score margin per game	Projected change in scoring margin
Ohio State	1	14 (7, 7)	+22.8	+1.4
Oregon	2	12 (7, 5)	+21.8	-0.6
TCU	3	15 (10, 5)	+27.5	+0.0
Alabama	4	9 (2, 7)	+18.5	-3.4
Michigan State	5	13 (6, 7)	+21.5	-0.3
Florida State	6	10 (3, 7)	+8.1	-3.4
Baylor	7	17 (8, 9)	+22.7	+4.1
Georgia Tech	8	14 (7, 7)	+12.1	+1.4
Georgia	9	12 (6, 6)	+20.6	-1.6
UCLA	10	18 (10, 8)	+5.4	+1.8
Mississippi State	11	7 (4, 3)	+15.2	-9.8
Arizona State	12	13 (6, 7)	+9.0	-0.3
Wisconsin	13	12 (5, 7)	+13.8	-0.8
Missouri	14	12 (6, 6)	+6.7	-1.6
Clemson	15	6 (4, 2)	+14.2	-9.8
Boise State	16	17 (9, 8)	+12.9	+3.4
Ole Miss	17	16 (9, 7)	+12.3	+3.6
Kansas State	18	11 (6, 5)	+12.6	-2.3
Arizona	19	11 (6, 5)	+6.3	-2.3
USC	20	14 (7, 7)	+10.7	+1.4

Alabama: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; TCU: Chris Covatta

One problem with this: If you use offer lists to make your ratings more accurate, you're also introducing a bit of circularity. If an Alabama offer gets a player ranked more highly, then Alabama is always assured of a high team ranking. Successful teams will then always end up with good recruiting rankings, both because they're landing the best prospects (and they are) and because prospects they land get a boost, or as angry fans have long called it, a Bama Bump.

Recruiting services certainly don't admit to changing or rethinking ratings based on offers, but if such circularity does exist, it doesn't change one simple fact: Recruiting rankings are awfully predictive.

Correlation between your five-year recruiting averages and your F/+ rating: 0.666. Correlation between your five-year recruiting averages and your percentage of points scored: 0.428.

If you want to be suspicious about recruiting rankings, know this: Correlations with two-year rankings are even higher.

Correlation between your two-year recruiting averages and your F/+ rating: 0.680. Correlation between your two-year recruiting averages and your percentage of points scored: 0.454.

Since most of your two-deep is going to consist of players who were signed more than two years ago, that suggests that there is a relationship between recruiting rankings and performance that ties mostly to recent performance, not the actual ratings of your players on the field.

Either success leads to better recruiting, which leads to more success, or success leads to more benefit of the doubt in recruiting, which leads to better ratings.

Regardless, here's a look at Athlon's preseason top 20 teams and their recent recruiting averages:

Recruiting rankings for Athlon Sports 2015 top 20

Preseason Ranking	Team	2-year Recruiting Rank	5-year Recruiting Rank
1	Ohio State	9	4
2	Alabama	1	1
3	Baylor	32	39
4	Auburn	5	7
5	TCU	49	38
6	USC	2	2
7	Michigan State	22	24
8	Oregon	23	17
9	Florida State	3	3
10	Georgia	10	6
11	Ole Miss	21	21
12	Notre Dame	11	10
13	Arizona State	24	35
14	Clemson	12	14
15	LSU	7	5
16	Arkansas	28	33
17	Oklahoma	16	12
18	Georgia Tech	37	42
19	Wisconsin	35	36
20	Texas A&M	8	18

Luck and randomness

The game of football, played with a pointy ball, brings to the table quite a bit of randomness. There's no way around it. But we don't necessarily take that into account when we set expectations for a given team, and we probably should.

In 2013, Oklahoma and Houston were insanely lucky teams. The Sooners recovered all nine fumbles that occurred in late-season wins against Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Alabama, and turnovers played heavy roles, especially in each of the last two wins. Recover only five of those nine, and the Sooners probably don't beat either Oklahoma State or (if they still made the Sugar Bowl) Alabama. And if they don't beat those teams, they don't head into 2014 with what turned out to be unreasonably high expectations.

Houston, meanwhile, nearly broke the turnovers luck scale in 2013. The Cougars seemingly overachieved, improving from 5–7 to 8–5 and threatening for a while to steal the AAC title from UCF and Louisville despite playing a freshman quarterback. Their turnover margin was a nearly incomprehensible plus-25, but according to national averages for fumble recovery rates (which always trend toward 50 percent over time) and the ratio of interceptions to passes broken up (on average, a team intercepts one pass for every three to four breakups), it should have been closer to about plus-4. They recovered more than 60 percent of all fumbles, they intercepted an unsustainably high number of passes, and their opponents dropped an unsustainably high number of potential interceptions.

On paper, Houston improved in 2014, but the Cougars' luck regressed drastically toward the mean (expected turnover margin:



In terms of turnovers, TCU was the nation's luckiest team in 2014. Counting on another season of similar good fortune is unrealistic.



Oklahoma underachieved in 2014, but a lot of that was due to uncommonly bad luck in the turnover department.

plus-6; actual: plus-8), they lost badly to UTSA, finished 7–5 (before a miraculous bowl win), and saw their head coach fired.

Is there a correlation between your turnovers luck (i.e. the difference between your expected and actual turnover margins) and your year-to-year improvement or regression? A bit.

Correlation between your turnovers luck and next year's F/+ rating: 0.130. Correlation between your turnovers luck and next year's percentage of points scored: 0.186.

Since ratings systems like F/+ are normalized to ignore a lot of luck factors, you would assume it would be less affected by luck than actual points scored. Turnovers bite randomly, and the effects will be pretty selective. Still, it's a factor with correlations only slightly weaker than returning starters. That makes it worth noting.

And as you would expect, the correlations get stronger for those who were particularly lucky or unlucky. Much stronger.

Correlation between your turnovers luck and next year's percentage of points scored (for only teams in the top and bottom 10 percent of turnovers luck): 0.357.

So if you were particularly lucky or unlucky last season, that luck is probably going to change this fall, and it could make a pretty significant difference in the amount of points you score and allow. Who needs to be on the lookout in this regard?

2014's 15 most fortunate teams according to turnovers luck

Team	Expected TO Margin	Actual TO Margin	Difference
TCU	+1.5	+18	+16.5
FIU	-1.4	+11	+12.4
Arizona State	+1.8	+14	+12.2
Louisiana Tech	+4.2	+16	+11.8
Washington	+0.4	+12	+11.6
Michigan State	+8.7	+19	+10.3
Louisville	-5.6	+4	+9.6
Georgia	+6.9	+16	+9.1
Ole Miss	-1.8	+7	+8.8
Ball State	+0.6	+9	+8.4
Kentucky	-0.3	+8	+8.3
Oregon	+15.3	+23	+7.7
Miami (Ohio)	-4.9	+2	+6.9
Duke	-0.8	+6	+6.8
Northern Illinois	+5.4	+12	+6.6

Luck is part of the game of football, so it probably isn't a surprise that two of last year's top six teams in the pre-bowl College Football Playoff rankings (No. 2 Oregon and No. 6 TCU) are on this list. No. 5 Baylor (plus-6.4) barely missed inclusion, too. Still, it might be difficult for those teams (not to mention other poll darlings like Michigan State) to repeat last year's success. The inclusion of Georgia and Ole Miss is also noteworthy.

Meanwhile, some pretty interesting names appear on the unlucky list, too.

After the luck of late-2013, Oklahoma's karma was pretty awful in 2014, and this doesn't even include "good kickers missing untimely kicks" luck like what hurt the Sooners against Oklahoma State and, particularly, Kansas State.

2014's 14 least fortunate teams according to turnovers luck

Team	Expected TO Margin	Actual TO Margin	Difference
Georgia State	-8.1	-22	-13.9
Connecticut	-0.5	-13	-12.5
South Alabama	+5.3	-7	-12.3
Oklahoma	+6.8	-5	-11.8
Vanderbilt	-4.3	-16	-11.7
Eastern Michigan	-7.3	-18	-10.7
Oklahoma State	+2.5	-8	-10.5
Alabama	+7.1	-2	-9.1
Middle Tennessee	+5.1	-4	-9.1
Texas Tech	-4.2	-13	-8.8
Marshall	+6.7	-2	-8.7
Miami	+7.7	-1	-8.7
Colorado	-1.4	-10	-8.6
San Jose State	-3.5	-12	-8.5
Washington State	-8.6	-17	-8.4

Some other teams that fared far worse than expectations show up here: Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Miami. Colorado and Washington State were also expected to do better than they did, and luck played a role in that disappointment.

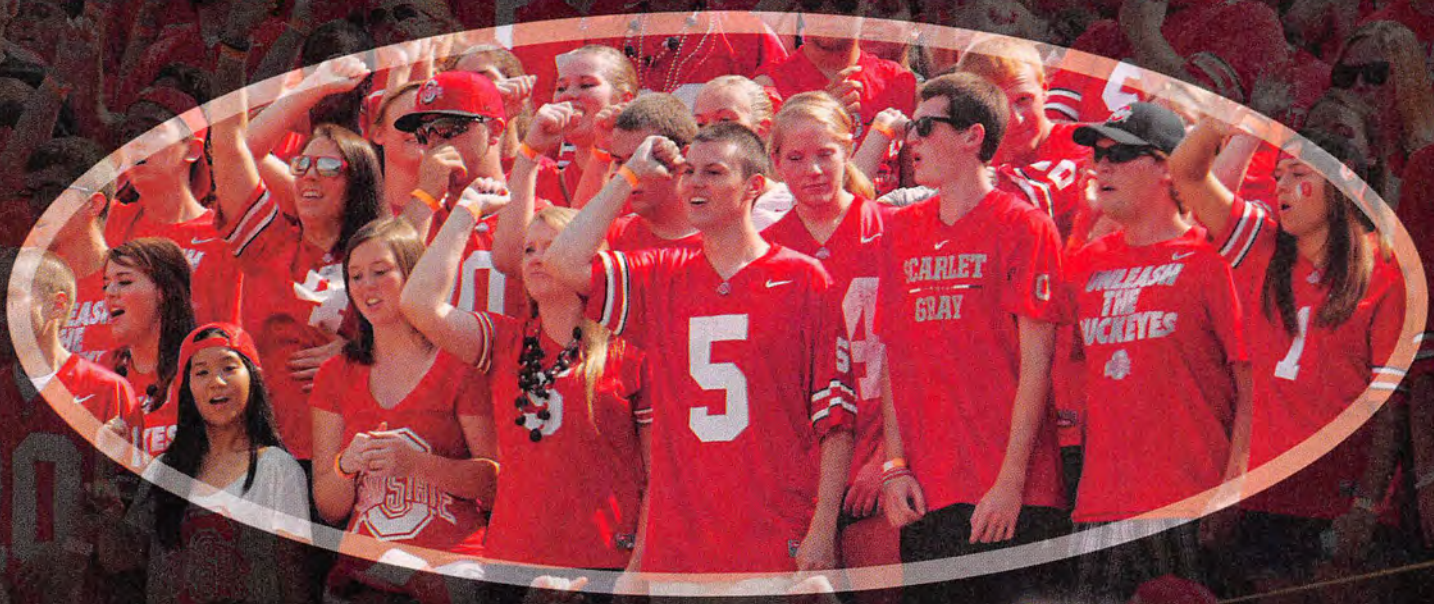
But the two most interesting names on this list are two teams that enjoyed plenty of success: Alabama and Marshall. These teams went a combined 25–3 in 2014, with 16 wins coming by a margin of at least 19 points. But they were probably even more dominant than the scores would attest, and in their three losses, these teams had a minus-four turnover margin.

How good will your team be this year? Ask yourself these questions in this order: How good were we last year? And how good have we been for the last five years? How are our recruiting rankings — getting better or worse? Are we returning more or fewer than about 6-7 starters on offense and defense? And how lucky were we last year?

Not everybody actually wants to set realistic expectations for their team, but asking those five questions is the best roadmap for doing just that.

Layne Murdoch

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College Football's GOLDEN AGE...

But Will the Bubble Burst?

by Jon Solomon

If college football ever needed validation that it's really, really popular — and the game doesn't need the ego boost, trust us — it was on display as Ohio State won the first College Football Playoff championship game.

Ohio State showed that almost anything is possible in the new playoff era. The Buckeyes snuck into the four-team field as the No. 4 seed, then beat Alabama to end the SEC's eight-year streak of reaching the national title game. OSU then knocked off Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota and the Oregon Ducks for the national title — doing all this while using its third-string quarterback.

The Ohio State-Oregon championship game drew an audience of 33.4 million people to set a new cable television viewing record. How popular was college football's mini-Super Bowl? The Academy Awards attracted only slightly more viewers at 36.6 million. LeBron James, America's most well-known sports star, cheered on the Buckeyes from their sideline in the final minutes of the championship game inside Jerry's World — the massive, billion-dollar Dallas Cowboys stadium that screams entertainment and excess.

College football is as popular as ever. That's likely not changing anytime soon. But popularity doesn't guarantee that bubbles will never burst. There are challenges facing the sport and, to varying degrees, they are very real:

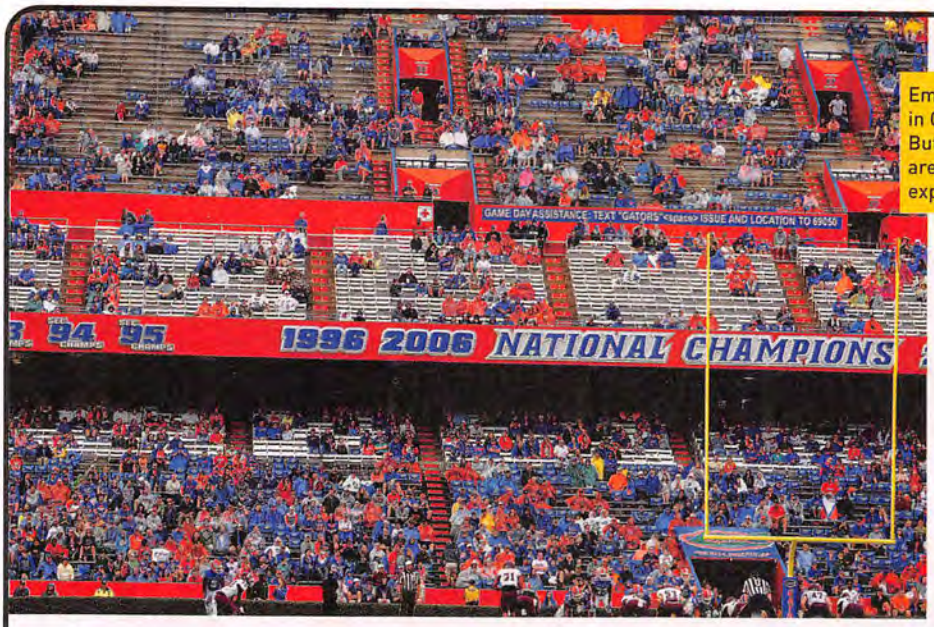
- Declining attendance in the regular season and at some bowl games
- Increasing financial gap between the haves and have-nots as schools provide more benefits to players
- Growing health concerns about concussions that could limit football's talent pool
- External threats to pay players and/or give them more legal rights

"College football is an extraordinary game," Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowlsby says. "I think the months of October and November are the best regular season in all





The inaugural College Football Playoff was precisely the boon to the sport that its proponents promised. But even with a favorable tailwind, college football faces threats to its long-term health.
Photo by Layne Murdoch



Empty seats at a venue like the Swamp in Gainesville were once unthinkable. But more and more college football fans are foregoing the on-campus game-day experience for the comforts of home.

of sports, and I think there's a lot right with college football. But we ought to be thoughtful, or we'll find ourselves in a much different place in the future."

The bubble isn't close to bursting in the eyes of Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott.

"I'm not worried about football," Scott says. "I think the fundamentals are very strong and, in fact, getting stronger in terms of the popularity of college football and the passion and entertainment value around the game. It's hard to predict anything too far into the future, but football continues to be the most popular sport in this country."

Still, it's worthwhile to take a look at the challenges that face the seemingly unstoppable juggernaut that is college football.

Declining attendance

Smaller crowds were bound to happen given how the paradigm has shifted in college sports. Football television money drives the engine, and with nearly every game on TV or available via streaming, it's so much easier and cheaper for fans to stay home and watch comfortably on their HDTV.

Football Bowl Subdivision crowds for home games averaged 43,483 fans in 2014, down four percent from 2013 and the lowest since 2000. Last year marked the sixth straight season that crowds averaged below 46,000 since they peaked at 46,456 in 2008.

"I have some questions about sustainability," Bowlsby says. "We are seeing troubling trends in attendance, especially among young attendees. The product that's on television is so good and you can fast forward or go to other games during the commercials or watch on mobile devices. The fact is we're consuming our sports differently than we have in the past, and that's going to continue to change."

The good news: 72 percent of the top-25 attendance leaders experienced increases or remained the same (all of the top 25 were from Power 5 conferences or Notre Dame). The bad news: Only 48 percent of the remaining Power 5 schools maintained or increased their crowd average, and many schools in smaller conferences continued to decline.

"In some ways the sport is probably as popular as it's ever been, and the TV ratings suggest that," MAC commissioner Jon Steinbrecher says. "Yeah, we have instances of dips in attendance, which I think we can link in large part to how we've made it very easy to stay home and watch the game."

Conferences and schools have understood this for years. Realignment didn't help by taking away some attractive games. Some rivalry games have disappeared (goodbye, Texas-Texas A&M and Kansas-Missouri). Bigger conferences mean that some schools see certain attractive opponents on their campuses far less often.

Some schools are creating better in-game experiences through technology and the game-day environment. Some are downsizing their stadiums and building more club suites to generate revenue. There's not a one-size-fits-all answer. Winning, of course, usually solves attendance problems.

Bowl games continue to be impacted by smaller crowds. Announced attendance at last season's 35 returning postseason games declined four percent, and the average bowl crowd was down for the fifth straight year.

Television ratings for the regular-season remained strong. ESPN's New Year's Eve audience for bowl games averaged 7.1 million viewers, up from 4.6 million in 2013 when less-attractive games were played on that date.

A big question in the next two seasons: How will ratings look for the playoff's semifinals on Dec. 31 instead of Jan. 1? In order to protect the Rose and Sugar bowls, the College Football Playoff is potentially hurting its New Year's Day brand again with the semifinals on New Year's Eve two out of every three years. Last season's New Year's Day was a hit with exciting Auburn-Wisconsin and Baylor-Michigan State games leading into semifinal matchups of Florida State-Oregon and Alabama-Ohio State. Meanwhile, the sport will reach 40 bowl games (counting the championship game) when Orlando adds another postseason game in 2015.

"Some of our bowl games exist purely for the experience, and I think that's where we probably need to focus as much as anything," Football Bowl Association executive director Wright Waters says. "I don't think you can have a discussion about the health of bowls and limit it to attendance and payouts and ratings. If the attendance is down four percent and that's the same as the regular season, I think it just speaks to the larger issue that we've got to get our arms around as an industry."

For college football, the fight is on to keep its next generation of fans at stadiums.

Gainesville Sun/Landov; Razorback Athletics Communications



The latest example of college football's growing financial gap: Dan Enos left a head-coaching position in the MAC to be Arkansas' offensive coordinator, earning a significant pay raise in the process.

Financial gap

In mid-November of last year, the College Football Playoff rankings looked as if "Moneyball" had come to the sport. Half of the top eight teams in the rankings (at that time) live in the middle class financially — Baylor (36th in national revenue by athletic department), TCU (43rd), Arizona State (51st) and Mississippi State (56th).

A month later, the playoff featured some bluebloods: Alabama, Florida State, Oregon and Ohio State. That doesn't mean the so-called "Moneyball" schools can't compete for the national title. Now more than ever, it may be easier for those schools to compete given that everyone has TV exposure these days.

Also, money doesn't buy success. Go ask Texas, which led the country in athletic department revenue in 2012-13 ($165.7 million) and went 6–7 in football last year. Baylor ($86.9 million in '13-14) and TCU ($77.1 million in '13-14) shared the Big 12 title, and both flirted with making the playoff.

The reality is that the financial gaps will only increase. And although TV money continues to pour in for many major conferences, the gap will likely present a challenge for some football programs. The new NCAA governance structure gives the Power 5 conferences the autonomy to create legislation to provide more benefits to players. Those benefits come with costs that schools can elect to pay or not pay.

Cost of attendance is the first new benefit, and it's an important one. If schools want to, they can now pay players an extra stipend of a couple thousand dollars to cover the actual cost of attending college beyond the NCAA's previous limit on scholarships. The cost of attendance numbers will vary by school and are set by financial aid officers under federal guidelines.

"We're all at the point where the intent is right, but there's going to be some problems with managing it," Steinbrecher says. "We've really got to have some faith that people are going to do the right things. The NCAA doesn't have the staff to monitor this. The question that I have for our own folks is, do we need to develop a conference monitoring system for this? The numbers shouldn't be dramatic each year."

Schools can now provide unlimited meals and snacks to players in conjunction with their participation. There's the possibility that more players could have their education paid for by returning to college at a later date. Covering medical costs for players after their careers is another discussion that's going to come up.

American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco, who wants to position his league as the sixth "power conference," understands what he calls "headwinds" in college sports facing his league.

"We hate that term 'power conference,'" Aresco says. "We know it's used a lot. It's harder on us. We don't have as much resources. But if you use money correctly and spend it wisely, you can compete. Our guys don't have the margin for error that other guys clearly have. Also, we realize probably half of those schools (in the Power 5 conferences) are going to struggle with this. They're not all Michigan and Alabama and Texas and Ohio State. This is a new world where we can compete because we do have scholarship limits and transfer rules, and we fought hard for those in the (NCAA) governance redesign. With those two things in place, you can compete."

But the money gap also increases the difficulty for some schools to retain coaches — or even hire them in the first place. The SEC West will now have a last-place coach who makes at least $4 million annually. Back in 2007, Nick Saban was the only coach in the country who made $4 million.

Many coordinators at high-profile schools would have to take pay cuts to be a head coach at a smaller school.

"It used to be back in the day you'd be an assistant coach and you might be a head coach at Division II and migrate to a Division I program and migrate again," Steinbrecher says. "Or in the case of the MAC, it wasn't unusual to be picking up who was the hot coordinator at that time. But when you look at what's going on with salaries at the very highest level, not only with head coaches but with assistants, it's changing where I think all of us are starting to look when we replace a coach."

Central Michigan lost head coach Dan Enos, who left to become Arkansas' offensive coordinator, and replaced him with John Bonamego, a 16-year NFL assistant who was mostly a special teams coordinator. Buffalo hired Lance Leipold, who won six Division III national championships at Wisconsin-Whitewater with a 109–6 record in eight seasons. Steinbrecher compared the hiring of Leipold to Wisconsin's basketball team many years ago picking Bo Ryan, who had won four Division III national titles.

"Look at people who were high school coaches six or seven years ago. They're head coaches at the highest level," Stein-



Michigan's inept handling of a concussed Shane Morris underscored what remains a serious issue for college football — the long-term health of the athletes. Brain injuries could put a dent in the sport's fan base and participation rate.

brecher says. "That wouldn't have occurred a decade ago. There are people at all levels who can flat-out coach. I think savvy administrators will have to work hard to figure that out."

Concussions

The image was frightening last season. Visibly woozy Michigan quarterback Shane Morris had just taken a hit to the head and wobbled around, staying on his feet only by leaning on a teammate. Morris stayed in the game for one play after the hit. As if that weren't bad enough, he later returned for one more play.

How Michigan handled the aftermath was also troubling. After the game, then-Wolverines coach Brady Hoke said Morris "wanted to be the quarterback, and so, believe me, if he didn't want to be he would've come to the sideline and stayed down." That comment represents the old-school football culture that concussion experts are trying to change.

In the ensuing days, Hoke said he didn't think Morris had been diagnosed with a concussion. Then his athletic director confirmed that a concussion had in fact occurred and apologized for how Michigan handled the injury.

The Michigan example is a long way of saying this: Concussions aren't going away. They're a serious health issue that's heavily scrutinized now by the public. Football at all levels must continue to evolve or risk losing its current popularity.

"I've had very high-placed football coaches tell me that they even question the sustainability of football as a whole going forward," Bowlsby says. "Youth participation is down in each of the past two or three years. You saw Mike Ditka's interview where he said he wouldn't want his kids or grandkids playing the game. I think football is under siege in a lot of ways."

The NCAA has been mired in a lawsuit over concussions. The proposed settlement between the NCAA and the plaintiffs would provide money to former college athletes to be tested for long-term brain injuries if they meet certain criteria from a questionnaire. The $70 million medical monitoring fund would not pay for the actual treatment of the injuries — a criticism some have levied against the settlement.

"I think it's very unfortunate," says prominent concussion expert Dr. Robert Cantu, who was named to serve on the NCAA's medical monitoring fund committee. "Unfortunately, where it's left is these individuals are going to be able to be given the diagnosis and then they've got to sue either in a class or individually, and they either have to go after a given school, or if they want to include the NCAA they can. I think a lot of individual schools will get sued."

Medical experts and economists who created the NCAA medical monitoring fund estimate that 50 to 300 former college athletes in all sports who played from 1956 to 2008 will be diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). CTE is a degenerative brain disease that has been found in 76 of the 79 brains of former NFL players examined after their deaths. Other factors such as genetics may contribute to CTE, but the disease has been repeatedly linked to head trauma.

In recent years, the NCAA has set new guidelines and spent money on research and education. Reluctant to accept liability, the NCAA, conferences and schools have passed the buck back and forth over who's in charge of new concussion guidelines. There is not enough support yet for penalties to be attached to a new safety committee that will oversee concussion protocol for the Power 5 conferences, even though NCAA president Mark Emmert and NCAA chief medical officer Brian Hainline have publicly said that they want some type of enforcement mechanism.

Why is there not enough support to attach NCAA penalties to return-to-play concussion guidelines? "Because some people aren't doing it correctly," Bowlsby says. "They want to have local control, (but) their coaches (are) saying, 'I don't want to be told what to do on the sideline.'"

In 2013, the Chronicle of Higher Education found that nearly half of the trainers surveyed in major college football said they felt pressure from coaches to return concussed players to the field before they were medically ready. A 2010 NCAA survey revealed in the lawsuit showed that nearly half of responding universities said they returned athletes in the same game after a concussion diagnosis.

"What the NCAA has to do — and it's easy for me to say and not easy to do — they have to police so the policies get done," Cantu says. "They're leaving it self-policed until there's a whistle blown."

College football has progressed from where it was a couple years ago with concussions. The sport's head is no longer buried in the sand. Certainly, no one wants long-term health problems for players.

Icon Sportswire via AP Images

Still, there's going to be constant tension in college football over this issue. There may be a day when rules changes more dramatic than the NCAA targeting penalty are needed. Educating players will be important, starting at younger ages (if youth football even continues to exist in the future). More players willing to speak up and sit down when they have symptoms of a concussion will help the sport, but that cuts against the grain of football's mentality.

"You have to keep watching what we're doing to make sure we're doing everything possible to make a high-velocity impact sport as safe as possible," Steinbrecher says. "I think technological advances could help, whether it's sensors in the helmets or pads to trigger protocols that say if you have a collision measured at X, maybe that's a player you need to look at immediately to monitor.

"There's an awful lot we don't know medically, but we're learning more and more."

Litigation

Talk to conference commissioners about the health of college football and they almost unanimously agree on the biggest threat: The attempt to get players paid and/or be considered employees.

Change is coming to the NCAA. What exactly that change will look like remains to be seen, but it's becoming very likely that college athletes will be allowed to get paid in some form beyond their scholarship value.

Maybe there will be group licensing deals with schools and third parties allowing equal payments to every player on a team for the use of their name, image and likeness on television or products. Maybe players will be allowed to cut their own deals to receive outside endorsement money. Maybe — in what's described by critics as the doomsday scenario — players will be allowed to shop their services to the highest-bidding school.

The Ed O'Bannon lawsuit opened legal doors and helped change the public dialogue. So did all of the money pouring into the college sports industry as schools chased new conference homes for money and created their own television networks. A federal judge ruled last August that the NCAA violated antitrust law and that schools are allowed (but not required) to provide deferred payments to football and men's basketball players after their eligibility expires. The NCAA could cap the amount at no less than $5,000 per year.

The NCAA appealed the ruling. As of early May, the appellate court had not made a decision. The NCAA faces the prospect of having to create new rules for allowing these payments. Under the O'Bannon injunction, schools could begin offering the extra money to current players and recruits on Aug. 1 with payouts starting in 2016-17.

Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick says that college sports could manage a group-licensing concept for athletes to be paid immediately and not even wait for deferred payments. Swarbrick believes the industry brought this on itself with rules that differentiate athletes from the general student body, such as not allowing athletes to make money off their own names.

"From a risk perspective, O'Bannon was a very favorable ruling for everybody," Swarbrick says. "The (Martin) Jenkins and (Shawne) Alston cases are much more troubling. You can find ways to manage a finite exposure, which is what O'Bannon gave us. Some people may cut sports, some people may increase revenue, some people may endow more, whatever. The open-ended case, that's problematic."

The Jenkins case — which for now is consolidated with the Alston cost-of-attendance lawsuit — is the big one everyone fears in college sports. The Jenkins case is led by high-profile sports labor attorney Jeffrey Kessler, who helped bring free agency to the NFL and wants an open market for college football and basketball players.

Meanwhile, the Northwestern unionization case before the National Labor Relations Board remained unresolved as of early May. An NLRB regional director ruled last year that Northwestern football players are employees who can attempt to form a union. Northwestern appealed the decision.

If Northwestern football players are deemed employees, the ballots they voted on will be counted to see if they want to unionize. Even if the players voted no, a precedent will have been set by the NLRB for private schools.

Any attempt to form player unions at public universities would depend on state labor laws. Michigan and Ohio have already put in place legal mechanisms to prevent college athletes at public universities from being declared employees.

"You just hope that fans generally don't get fatigued with all of the legal issues and debates about whether players are employees, whether they should be paid," ACC commissioner John Swofford says. "All of the fan feedback and surveys I've seen seem to indicate the American public and college sports fans want to see *college* players and by and large believe they are going to school and part of the collegiate experience. If that changes dramatically, I think that will negatively impact how people view college sports in the long run."

The Pac-12's Scott sounds a similar tune.

"The USFL and XFL weren't very successful for a reason. The D-League isn't very successful for a reason," Scott says. "The public isn't very interested in development or semi-pro sports. The plaintiffs would like to turn college sports into semi-pro sports. I think that would kill college football or college basketball."

It's worth noting that doom-and-gloom claims such as these have been heard before in various sports. The public was supposed to lose interest in Major League Baseball when free agency arrived and in the Olympics when professionals were allowed to participate. Needless to say, judging by their media rights deals, baseball and the Olympics are doing just fine.

Right now, nothing is killing college football. The first playoff proved that, after years of predictions that a playoff would hurt the sport.

"It's a fun game," the AAC's Aresco says. "I'm a little concerned about the fact offenses are maybe getting a little ahead. I'm not used to football where scores are 61–58. But it's an incredible game. I don't think college football can become much more popular."

College football's bubble remains intact.

But bubbles can pop when you least expect them to. It's up to smart and thoughtful decision-makers to maintain the game's popularity.



1. NORTH DAKOTA STATE

(15–1, 7–1 MISSOURI VALLEY) For a change, the four-time defending FCS national champion Bison have a better offense than defense. Senior quarterback **Carson Wentz (right)**, named the Most Outstanding Player of last season's title win over Illinois State, will work behind a terrific offensive line and get the ball to wide receivers Zach Vraa and RJ Urzendowski and running back King Frazier, a transfer from Nebraska. On defense, coach Chris Klieman loses a lot, but both starting cornerbacks, Jordan Champion and CJ Smith, return, and defensive tackle Nate Tanguay is a handful up front. The Fargodome will keep rocking.

2. ILLINOIS STATE

(13–2, 7–1 MISSOURI VALLEY) Dual-threat quarterback Tre Roberson and running back Marshaun Coprich (FCS-high 2,274 rushing yards) are basically unstoppable, but coach Brock Spack's national runner-up squad must replace key personnel on offense. An athletic defense will soar again behind ends Teddy Corwin and David Perkins and leading tackler Pat Meehan at linebacker. In the 10-team Missouri Valley, the Redbirds and North Dakota State won't meet during the regular season.

3. SAM HOUSTON STATE

(11–5, 7–1 SOUTHLAND) After coach K.C. Keeler guided the Bearkats to the national semifinals in his first season, he gets back 19 starters. Dual-threat quarterback Jared Johnson threw for over 3,000 yards and was one rushing yard shy of 1,000. Sophomore defensive end P.J. Hall racked up 30 tackles for a loss.

4. JACKSONVILLE STATE

(10–2, 8–0 OHIO VALLEY) OVC Defensive Player of the Year Devaunte Sigler, LaMichael Fanning and Chris Landrum form an intimidating defensive line, and quarterback Eli Jenkins keeps getting better. Plus, the veteran Gamecocks and coach John Grass are motivated by last year's early playoff exit as the No. 3 seed.

5. VILLANOVA

(11–3, 7–1 CAA) Senior quarterback John Robertson (3,924 total yards, 46 total touchdowns) seeks an encore after winning the 2014 Walter Payton Award. Linebacker Don Cherry nearly matched Robertson's excellence on defense, finishing second in the Buck Buchanan Award voting.

6. EASTERN WASHINGTON

(11–3, 7–1 BIG SKY) Lost in the transfer of star quarterback Vernon Adams Jr. to Oregon is the fact that the Eagles must improve a defense that ranked 90th in scoring defense and 95th in total defense. Emerging defensive end Samson Ebukam is a part of the solution. New signal-caller Jordan West will target junior Cooper Kupp, who's caught 37 touchdowns in two seasons.

7. COASTAL CAROLINA

(12–2, 4–1 BIG SOUTH) Only North Dakota State has more FCS wins than Coastal's 24 the last two seasons. The Chanticleers will continue the momentum behind dual-threat quarterback Alex Ross and 1,500-yard running back De'Angelo Henderson. Quinn Backus, a three-time Big South Defensive Player of the Year, departs, leaving senior end Roderick Holder in charge.

8. CHATTANOOGA

(10–4, 7–0 SOUTHERN) Quarterback Jacob Huesman has made his dad (coach Russ Huesman) proud in winning back-to-back conference titles and SoCon Offensive Player of the Year awards. Few FCS secondaries are better than the unit boasting Cedric Nettles, Dee Virgin and Lucas Webb.

9. NEW HAMPSHIRE

(12–2, 8–0 CAA) Coach Sean McDonnell's back-to-back national semifinalists are guarding against a step backward. Despite the loss of influential seniors, the Wildcats have veteran leaders in quarterback Sean Goldrich, linebacker Akil Anderson and defensive back Casey DeAdrade.

10. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

(7–5, 4–4 MISSOURI VALLEY) Former Nebraska coach Bo Pelini steps into a ready-to-win situation at YSU, where school president Jim Tressel guided the Penguins to four national titles in the 1990s. A youthful offense features sophomore quarterback Hunter Wells and junior running back Martin Ruiz. Defensive ends Derek Rivers and Terrell Williams combined for 24 sacks.

11. NORTHERN IOWA

(9–5, 6–2 MISSOURI VALLEY) If UNI survives a tough five-game opening stretch, it will be a top-10 team. Transfers Aaron Bailey (Illinois quarterback) and Savon Huggins (Rutgers running back) join a strong corps featuring quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen, running back Darrian Miller, linebacker Brett McMakin, safety Tim Kilfoy and placekicker Michael Schmadeke.

12. LIBERTY

(9–5, 4–1 BIG SOUTH) Coach Turner Gill's Flames expect to build on their first-ever playoff appearance. The passing duo of Josh Woodrum and Darrin Peterson is superb, there are two excellent running backs in D.J. Abnar and Desmond Rice, and placekicker John Lunsford has the strongest leg in the FCS.

AP

13. MONTANA STATE
(8–5, 6–2 BIG SKY) Dual-threat quarterback Dakota Prukop was having a dominant campaign until a late-season knee injury slowed him down last year. With a veteran offensive line, the Bobcats will think run first while chasing the Big Sky title. Coach Rob Ash's squad must make improvements on defense.

14. JAMES MADISON
(9–4, 6–2 CAA) Quarterback Vad Lee, after leading the FCS in total yards (4,288) last season, will challenge Villanova's John Robertson for All-CAA honors. The young talent, including running back Khalid Abdullah, linebackers Kyre Hawkins and Rhakeem Stallings and cornerback Taylor Reynolds, has come of age.

15. EASTERN ILLINOIS
(5–7, 5–3 OHIO VALLEY) A bounce-back season for the Panthers appears likely in coach Kim Dameron's second season. Kentucky transfer Jalen Whitlow came on strong after he got acclimated at quarterback, and the running game added some transfers alongside Shepard Little. Linebacker Kamu Grugier-Hill is one of the top defenders in the OVC.

16. MCNEESE STATE
(6–5, 4–4 SOUTHLAND) There probably aren't enough touches to go around in the Cowboys' deep rushing attack, which includes quarterback Daniel Sams and running backs Ryan Ross and Derrick Milton. Coach Matt Viator, who has yet to have a losing record through nine seasons, seeks a rebound.

17. MONTANA
(9–5, 6–2 BIG SKY) Former Colorado School of Mines coach Bob Stitt has taken over the Grizzlies' historically powerful program. He won't be the only new face in a retooled lineup, although there are key returnees in linebackers Kendrick Van Ackeren and Jeremiah Kose and 1,000-yard receiver Jamaal Jones.

18. IDAHO STATE
(8–4, 6–2 BIG SKY) After a breakthrough season for a program that had been a Big Sky cellar-dweller, the Bengals must replace record-setting quarterback Justin Arias (4,076 yards, 38 TDs in 2014). But Arias' replacement will be able to rely on big-time weapons in running back Xavier Finney and wide receiver Madison Mangum.

19. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
(9–5, 5–3 MISSOURI VALLEY) No team has a bigger hole to fill than the Jackrabbits after three-time 2,000-yard rusher Zach Zenner moved on. The focal point of the offense shifts to sophomore wide receiver Jake Wieneke (73 receptions for 1,404 yards and 16 TDs).

20. RICHMOND
(9–5, 5–3 CAA) Despite the departure of quarterback Michael Strauss and a 23-member senior class, the Spiders return leading rushers Seth Fisher and Jacobi Green and 1,000-yard receivers Reggie Diggs and Brian Brown. Linebacker Omar Howard is coming off a breakout season.

21. EASTERN KENTUCKY
(9–4, 6–2 OHIO VALLEY) Dy'Shawn Mobley rushed for nearly 1,500 yards after transferring from Kentucky. His old school will get another look at him on Oct. 3 as part of the Colonels' challenging road schedule. Former Ohio State defensive end Noah Spence also has landed at EKU.

22. HARVARD
(10–0, 7–0 IVY) If Tim Murphy coaxes another unbeaten season out of his team, he might be the national Coach of the Year. The team's strength is at the skill positions, with quarterback Scott Hosch, running backs Paul Stanton Jr. and Semar Smith and wide receiver Andrew Fischer.

23. WESTERN CAROLINA
(7–5, 5–2 SOUTHERN) Every offensive starter is back from a Catamounts team coming off its best season in nearly a decade, none bigger than dual-threat quarterback Troy Mitchell. Trips to Tennessee and Texas A&M await.

24. CAL POLY
(7–5, 5–3 BIG SKY) Quarterback Chris Brown (1,265 yards, 17 TDs on the ground) and slot back Kori Garcia (1,039 yards) fuel a triple-option that has led the FCS in rushing yards per game the last two seasons. But a veteran team has to overcome a brutal first half of the schedule.

25. INDIANA STATE
(8–6, 4–4 MISSOURI VALLEY) Ten starters, led by linebacker Connor Underwood and safety Mark Sewall, return to a punishing defense. The key for the Sycamores is a steady transition for junior college transfer quarterback Zach Kline.

FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	JOHN ROBERTSON	6-1/221/SR.	VILLANOVA
RB	MARSHAUN COPRICH	5-9/205/SR.	ILLINOIS STATE
RB	DY'SHAWN MOBLEY	5-11/215/SR.	EASTERN KENTUCKY
WR	COOPER KUPP	6-2/195/JR.	EASTERN WASHINGTON
WR	DARRIN PETERSON	6-2/190/SR.	LIBERTY
TE	JOSH COOK	6-3/221/JR.	IDAHO STATE
C	ROBERT BOOKER	6-3/320/SR.	MISSOURI STATE
G	JONATHAN BURGESS	6-2/305/SR.	LIBERTY
G	JP FLYNN	6-5/305/JR.	MONTANA STATE
T	JOE HAEG	6-6/300/SR.	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
T	DONALD JACKSON III	6-2/280/SR.	SAM HOUSTON STATE

DEFENSE

DE	JAMES COWSER	6-4/245/SR.	SOUTHERN UTAH
DE	JONATHAN WOODARD	6-6/271/SR.	CENTRAL ARKANSAS
DT	JAVON HARGRAVE	6-2/295/SR.	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
DT	O.J. MAU	6-2/308/SR.	GARDNER-WEBB
LB	DON CHERRY	6-1/221/SR.	VILLANOVA
LB	LUKE RHODES	6-2/242/SR.	WILLIAM & MARY
LB	CONNOR UNDERWOOD	6-3/240/SR.	INDIANA STATE
CB	JERMAINE HOUGH	5-10/180/SR.	JACKSONVILLE STATE
CB	HARLAN MILLER	6-1/180/SR.	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
S	CASEY DEADRADE	5-11/208/JR.	NEW HAMPSHIRE
S	DONALD PAYNE	6-0/215/JR.	STETSON

SPECIALISTS

K	JOHN LUNSFORD	6-1/180/SR.	LIBERTY
P	BEN LECOMPTE	5-10/200/SR.	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
KR	POKEY HARRIS	5-10/175/SR.	MURRAY STATE
PR	ANTONIO HAMILTON	6-0/185/SR.	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

PROJECTED PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS
BUCKNELL (PATRIOT CHAMP)
CHATTANOOGA (SOUTHERN CHAMP)
COASTAL CAROLINA (BIG SOUTH CHAMP)
DUQUESNE (NORTHEAST CHAMPION)
EASTERN ILLINOIS (AT-LARGE)
EASTERN KENTUCKY (AT-LARGE)
EASTERN WASHINGTON (BIG SKY CHAMP)
IDAHO STATE (AT-LARGE)
ILLINOIS STATE (AT-LARGE)
JACKSONVILLE (PIONEER CHAMP)
JACKSONVILLE STATE (OHIO VALLEY CHAMP)
JAMES MADISON (AT-LARGE)
LIBERTY (AT-LARGE)
MCNEESE STATE (AT-LARGE)
MONTANA (AT-LARGE)
MONTANA STATE (AT-LARGE)
NEW HAMPSHIRE (AT-LARGE)
NORTH DAKOTA STATE (MISSOURI VALLEY CHAMP)
NORTHERN IOWA (AT-LARGE)
RICHMOND (AT-LARGE)
SAM HOUSTON STATE (SOUTHLAND CHAMP)
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (AT-LARGE)
VILLANOVA (CAA CHAMP)
YOUNGSTOWN STATE (AT-LARGE)

ATHLON SPORTS

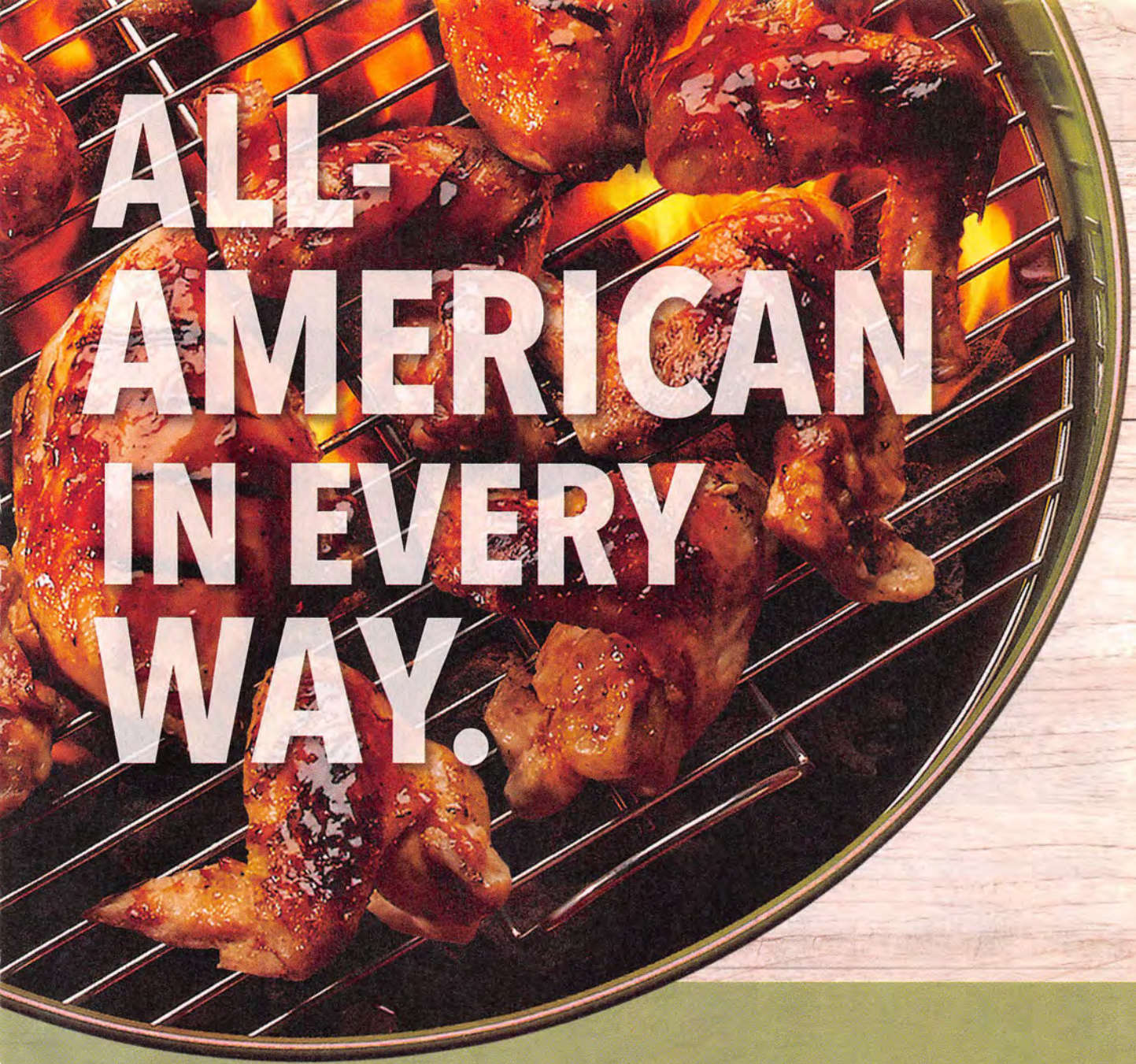
PRESEASON RANKINGS

1. Ohio State
2. Alabama
3. Baylor
4. Auburn
5. TCU
6. USC
7. Michigan State
8. Oregon
9. Florida State
10. Georgia
11. Ole Miss
12. Notre Dame
13. Arizona State
14. Clemson
15. LSU
16. Arkansas
17. Oklahoma
18. Georgia Tech
19. Wisconsin
20. Texas A&M
21. Mississippi State
22. Tennessee
23. UCLA
24. Stanford
25. Boise State



Ric Fogel

26. Florida
27. Missouri
28. Oklahoma State
29. Nebraska
30. Arizona
31. Utah
32. Penn State
33. Texas
34. Michigan
35. Virginia Tech
36. West Virginia
37. South Carolina
38. Louisville
39. NC State
40. Cincinnati
41. Pittsburgh
42. North Carolina
43. Miami (Fla.)
44. Kansas State
45. Minnesota
46. Washington
47. California
48. Texas Tech
49. BYU
50. Houston
51. Utah State
52. Duke
53. Iowa
54. Navy
55. Kentucky
56. Boston College
57. Maryland
58. Northwestern
59. Memphis
60. Indiana
61. Virginia
62. Temple
63. UCF
64. Illinois
65. Rutgers
66. Washington State
67. Colorado
68. San Diego State
69. WKU
70. Marshall
71. Colorado State
72. East Carolina
73. Oregon State
74. Iowa State
75. Toledo
76. Arkansas State
77. Georgia Southern
78. Bowling Green
79. Vanderbilt
80. Northern Illinois
81. Western Michigan
82. Wake Forest
83. Air Force
84. Purdue
85. Syracuse
86. Louisiana Tech
87. UL Lafayette
88. Middle Tennessee
89. Rice
90. Appalachian State
91. Nevada
92. UMass
93. Texas State
94. Ball State
95. Wyoming
96. New Mexico
97. Akron
98. Ohio
99. South Florida
100. UTEP
101. Fresno State
102. SMU
103. Kansas
104. Tulane
105. Buffalo
106. Tulsa
107. Florida Atlantic
108. South Alabama
109. Connecticut
110. San Jose State
111. Central Michigan
112. FIU
113. Old Dominion
114. Hawaii
115. ULM
116. Southern Miss
117. North Texas
118. Troy
119. Kent State
120. Army
121. Miami (Ohio)
122. UNLV
123. UTSA
124. New Mexico State
125. Idaho
126. Georgia State
127. Eastern Michigan
128. Charlotte



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ACC PREVIEW

ACC



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	ATLANTIC	COASTAL
1	FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES 11-2, 6-2 ACC	GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS 8-5, 6-2 ACC
2	CLEMSON TIGERS 9-3, 6-2 ACC	VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES 8-4, 5-3 ACC
3	LOUISVILLE CARDINALS 7-5, 5-3 ACC	PITTSBURGH PANTHERS 8-4, 5-3 ACC
4	NC STATE WOLFPACK 9-3, 5-3 ACC	NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS 7-5, 4-4 ACC
5	BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES 6-6, 3-5 ACC	MIAMI HURRICANES 7-5, 3-5 ACC
6	WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS 4-8, 2-6 ACC	DUKE BLUE DEVILS 7-5, 3-5 ACC
7	SYRACUSE ORANGE 3-9, 1-7 ACC	VIRGINIA CAVALIERS 4-8, 2-6 ACC

ACC Championship Game: Florida State over Georgia Tech

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal): Oregon 59, Florida State 20
Orange Bowl: Georgia Tech 49, Mississippi State 34
Russell Athletic Bowl: Clemson 40, Oklahoma 6
Sun Bowl: Arizona State 36, Duke 31
Belk Bowl: Georgia 37, Louisville 14
Pinstripe Bowl: Penn State 31, Boston College 30, OT
Quick Lane Bowl: Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21
St. Petersburg Bowl: NC State 34, UCF 27
Military Bowl: Virginia Tech 33, Cincinnati 17
Independence Bowl: South Carolina 24, Miami 21
Armed Forces Bowl: Houston 35, Pittsburgh 34

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Peach Bowl: Florida State vs. Ole Miss
TaxSlayer Bowl: Clemson vs. Texas A&M
Pinstripe Bowl: Virginia Tech vs. Michigan
Sun Bowl: Georgia Tech vs. Arizona
Belk Bowl: NC State vs. Florida
Quick Lane Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Northwestern
Military Bowl: Louisville vs. Navy
Independence Bowl: North Carolina vs. Kentucky
Austin Bowl*: Miami vs. Indiana
Arizona Bowl*: Boston College vs. Illinois

*pending 2015 approval

Georgia Tech: Tami Chappell; Cook: Peter Brouillet

2014 ACC STANDINGS

ATLANTIC	ACC	OVERALL	COASTAL	ACC	OVERALL
FLORIDA STATE	8-0	13-1	GEORGIA TECH	6-2	11-3
CLEMSON	6-2	10-3	DUKE	5-3	9-4
LOUISVILLE	5-3	9-4	NORTH CAROLINA	4-4	6-7
BOSTON COLLEGE	4-4	7-6	PITTSBURGH	4-4	6-7
NC STATE	3-5	8-5	VIRGINIA TECH	3-5	7-6
WAKE FOREST	1-7	3-9	MIAMI	3-5	6-7
SYRACUSE	1-7	3-9	VIRGINIA	3-5	5-7

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	14	4	12	10	5	3	12
CLEMSON	1	6	1	3	3	7	3
DUKE	10	10	7	6	14	12	6
FLORIDA STATE	7	2	2	7	2	4	2
GEORGIA TECH	3	12	14	1	6	6	9
LOUISVILLE	8	7	8	12	4	1	8
MIAMI	2	3	5	8	7	9	4
NORTH CAROLINA	4	9	3	4	10	13	11
NC STATE	5	5	10	5	8	8	7
PITTSBURGH	6	1	6	2	9	10	10
SYRACUSE	11	13	11	13	13	11	14
VIRGINIA	12	11	9	11	11	14	5
VIRGINIA TECH	9	8	4	9	1	5	1
WAKE FOREST	13	14	13	14	12	2	13

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Florida State 2. Clemson 3. Miami 4. North Carolina 5. Virginia Tech
6. NC State 7. Louisville 8. Georgia Tech 9. Virginia 10. Duke
11. Wake Forest 12. Boston College 13. Pittsburgh 14. Syracuse



PRESEASON ALL-ACC TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Deshaun Watson	6-2	205	So.	Clemson
RB	James Conner	6-2	250	Jr.	Pittsburgh
RB	Dalvin Cook	6-0	203	So.	Florida State
WR	Tyler Boyd	6-2	190	Jr.	Pittsburgh
WR	Artavis Scott	5-10	190	So.	Clemson
TE	Bucky Hodges	6-6	249	So.	Virginia Tech
C	Matt Skura	6-4	305	Sr.	Duke
G	Wyatt Teller	6-6	295	So.	Virginia Tech
G	Landon Turner	6-4	325	Sr.	North Carolina
T	Adam Bisnowaty	6-6	305	Jr.	Pittsburgh
T	Roderick Johnson	6-7	312	So.	Florida State

First-Team Defense

DE	Ken Ekanem	6-3	243	Jr.	Virginia Tech
DE	Dadi Nicolas	6-4	236	Sr.	Virginia Tech
DT	Adam Gotsis	6-5	282	Sr.	Georgia Tech
DT	Luther Maddy	6-1	293	Sr.	Virginia Tech
LB	Brandon Chubb	6-1	245	Sr.	Wake Forest
LB	Keith Kelsey	6-1	236	Jr.	Louisville
LB	Terrance Smith	6-4	231	Sr.	Florida State
CB	Kendall Fuller	6-0	197	Jr.	Virginia Tech
CB	Jalen Ramsey	6-1	201	Jr.	Florida State
S	Quin Blanding	6-1	215	So.	Virginia
S	Jeremy Cash	6-2	205	Sr.	Duke

First-Team Specialists

K	Roberto Aguayo	6-1	204	Jr.	Florida State
P	Alex Kinal	6-4	205	Sr.	Wake Forest
KR	Myles Willis	5-9	203	Jr.	Boston College
PR	Tyler Boyd	6-2	190	Jr.	Pittsburgh

Second-Team Offense

QB	Brad Kaaya	6-4	209	So.	Miami
RB	Jon Hilliman	6-0	215	So.	Boston College
RB	Joseph Yearby	5-9	195	So.	Miami
WR	Travis Rudolph	6-2	187	So.	Florida State
WR	Mike Williams	6-4	210	Jr.	Clemson
TE	Cam Serigne	6-3	245	So.	Wake Forest
C	Freddie Burden	6-3	302	Jr.	Georgia Tech
G	Dorian Johnson	6-5	300	Jr.	Pittsburgh
G	Joe Thuney	6-5	288	Sr.	NC State
T	Bryan Chamberlain	6-4	295	Sr.	Georgia Tech
T	Jonathan McLaughlin	6-5	310	Jr.	Virginia Tech

Second-Team Defense

DE	Sheldon Rankins	6-2	303	Sr.	Louisville
DE	Shaq Lawson	6-3	275	Jr.	Clemson
DT	Nile Lawrence-Stample	6-1	323	Sr.	Florida State
DT	Corey Marshall	6-2	262	Sr.	Virginia Tech
LB	Deon Clarke	6-2	213	Sr.	Virginia Tech
LB	Steven Daniels	6-0	257	Sr.	Boston College
LB	P.J. Davis	5-11	218	Jr.	Georgia Tech
CB	Mackensie Alexander	5-10	190	So.	Clemson
CB	Maurice Canady	6-2	185	Sr.	Virginia
S	Deon Bush	6-1	205	Sr.	Miami
S	Jamal Golden	6-0	193	Sr.	Georgia Tech

Second-Team Specialists

K	Ross Martin	5-10	185	Sr.	Duke
P	Will Monday	6-4	210	Sr.	Duke
KR	DeVon Edwards	5-9	175	Jr.	Duke
PR	Ryan Switzer	5-10	185	Jr.	North Carolina

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

National Forecast: 56
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Steve Addazio
Record at School: 14-12 (2 years)
Career Record: 27-23 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Todd Fitch
Defensive Coordinator: Don Brown
Chestnut Hill, MA • Alumni Stadium (44,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Maine
12 Howard
18 Florida State
26 Northern Illinois

OCTOBER
3 at Duke
10 Wake Forest
17 at Clemson
24 at Louisville
31 Virginia Tech

NOVEMBER
7 NC State
21 Notre Dame #
28 at Syracuse

#Boston, MA

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Massachusetts %	W	30-7	
Sept.	5	Pittsburgh	L	20-30	
Sept.	13	USC	W	37-31	
Sept.	20	Maine	W	40-10	
Sept.	27	Colorado State	L	21-24	
Oct.	11	at NC State	W	30-14	
Oct.	18	Clemson	L	13-17	
Oct.	25	at Wake Forest	W	23-17	
Nov.	1	at Virginia Tech	W	33-31	
Nov.	8	Louisville	L	19-38	
Nov.	22	at Florida State	L	17-20	
Nov.	29	Syracuse	W	28-7	
Dec.	27	Penn State #	(ot) L	30-31	

%Foxboro #Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anthony Palazzolo, OL, Fairfield, CT
2. Elijah Robinson, QB, Montclair, NJ
3. Aaron Monteiro, OL, Brockton, MA
4. Zach Allen, DE, New Canaan, CT
5. Wyatt Knopfke, OL, Bradenton, FL
6. Wyatt Ray, DE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
7. Tanner Karafa, LB, Ashburn, VA
8. Ben Glines, ATH, Cincinnati, OH
9. Ray Smith, DT, San Diego, CA
10. John Phillips, OL, Syracuse, NY

Boston College defenders forced just two fumbles in 2014, worst in FBS. One would think you'd accidentally force more.

STAT CORNER
2

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	26.2 ppg	10	83
Rushing	254.7 ypg	2	14
Passing	129.3 ypg	14	122
Total	384.0 ypg	10	80
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	21.3 ppg	3	21
Rushing	94.5 ypg	1	2
Passing	229.8 ypg	11	66
Total	324.2 ypg	3	11
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+1	+0.08	7	57

OFFENSE With former offensive coordinator Ryan Day now the quarterbacks coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, new OC Todd Fitch will have to break in a new system, a new starting quarterback and a new offensive line that replaces five starters. In other words, while the Eagles have plenty of returning talent at running back, there are more questions than answers for an offense that rushed for 254.7 yards per game last year, good for 14th in the nation.

Expect quarterback Darius Wade to start. The sophomore threw only eight passes a year ago, and the 6'0", 201-pound dual threat will need to be more accurate than the departed Tyler Murphy (57 percent completion rate in 2014) for the offense to take the next step. When Wade does throw, expect the ball to go often in the direction of 6'5", 237-pound tight end/wideout Dan Crimmins, a senior who caught 25 passes for 305 yards last fall.

The ground game should be in good hands with sophomore running back Jon Hilliman, who gained 860 yards with 13 touchdowns last fall. He will lead another committee approach that includes Myles Willis, Tyler Rouse and Marcus Outlow. Although not a running back, the speedy Sherman Alston should get plenty of carries from his wide receiver spot on jet sweeps, as the sophomore rushed for 352 yards at 10.4 yards per carry as a true freshman.

The only fly in the ointment may be the offensive line, which replaces all five starters. That said, coach Steve Addazio likes what he has on the interior, with sixth-year senior Harris Williams, who can play either guard or center, leading the way.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Don Brown always puts together an attacking unit that is led by a rugged front seven and utilizes a lot of creative blitzes. Expect that to be the case again and for the Eagles to repeat as one of the top defenses in the country against the run. A year ago, the Eagles finished second only to Michigan State in rush defense, allowing only 94.5 yards per game.

Clearly, the strength of the defense — and possibly the team overall — is in the front seven. The Eagles return five starters there, including three along a defensive line that returns tackles Truman Gutapfel and Connor Wujciak and end Kevin Kavalec. Along with other projected starter Malachi Moore at end, those four combined for 29.5 tackles for a loss last year and should increase that production in 2015.

The linebackers are led by senior Steven Daniels, who was second on the team with 72 tackles last year, including 7.0 for a loss. The secondary loses cornerback Manny Asprilla and safety Dominique Williams, but free safety Justin Simmons, the team's leading tackler, is back. Simmons, who made 76 stops and two interceptions a year ago, can also play cornerback and gives the secondary leadership and experience.

SPECIALISTS The Eagles will need more consistency out of kicker Alex Howell, who made just 5-of-11 field goal attempts last year, including 3-of-9 from 40 yards or longer. Howell acquitted himself much better as a punter with a 42.5-yard average. Returns should be in good hands with Willis and Alston back to handle kick and punt return duties, respectively.

FINAL ANALYSIS Addazio has this program going in the right direction after taking over a 2–10 team and putting together back-to-back winning seasons. Still, the question remains whether or not the Eagles can take that next step and become a true contender in the ACC. The defense should give this team a chance, but an inexperienced offense may prevent any giant leaps forward.


JON HILLIMAN

"The staff there has done a real good job, and they've gotten better every year, so I imagine they'll continue to get better."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	6	Sherman Alston (So.)	26	David Dudeck (Sr.)	
WR	83	**Charlie Callinan (So.)**	10	Bobby Swigert (Sr.)	
LT	74	Dave Bowen (Sr.)	73	Sam Schmal (So.)	
LG	77	Jon Baker (So.)	64	Harris Williams (Sr.)	
C	64	Harris Williams (Sr.)	50	Frank Taylor (Sr.)	
RG	72	Jim Cashman (Sr.)	64	Harris Williams (Sr.)	
RT	58	James Hendren (So.)	75	Chris Lindstrom (Fr.)	
TE	18	**Dan Crimmins (Sr.)**	81	Louie Addazio (Sr.)	
QB	4	Darius Wade (So.)	16	Troy Flutie (So.)	
FB	36	Bobby Wolford (Sr.)	39	Sean Burke (Sr.)	
RB	32	**Jon Hilliman (So.)**	23	Myles Willis (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	87	Malachi Moore (Sr.)	8	Harold Landry (So.)	
DT	97	**Truman Gutapfel (Jr.)**	45	Mehdi Abdesmad (Sr.)	
DT	90	**Connor Wujciak (Sr.)**	94	Noa Merritt (So.)	
DE	93	**Kevin Kavalec (Jr.)**		Zach Allen (Fr.)	
OLB	28	Matt Milano (Jr.)	17	Christian Lezzer (So.)	
MLB	52	**Steven Daniels (Sr.)**	13	Connor Strachan (So.)	
OLB	30	**Mike Strizak (Jr.)**	33	Tim Joy (Sr.)	
CB	20	Isaac Yiadom (So.)		Lukas Denis (Fr.)	
CB	43	John Johnson (Jr.)	37	Kamrin Moore (So.)	
SS	47	Cam Seward (So.)	49	Kevin Bletzer (So.)	
FS	27	**Justin Simmons (Sr.)**		Davon Jones (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Alex Howell (Sr.)	KR	23	Myles Willis (Jr.)
P	42	Alex Howell (Sr.)	PR	6	Sherman Alston (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Darius Wade, 8-3-23-0, 0 TD
Rushing: Jon Hilliman, 210 att., 860 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Dan Crimmins, 25 rec., 305 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Justin Simmons, 76
Sacks: Malachi Moore, 4.0
Interceptions: Justin Simmons, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

CLEMSON TIGERS

National Forecast: 14
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Dabo Swinney
Record at School: 61-26 (6+ years)
Career Record: 61-26 (6+ years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Tony Elliott, Jeff Scott
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Marion Hobby, Brent Venables
Clemson, SC
Memorial Stadium (81,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Wofford
12 Appalachian State
17 at Louisville

OCTOBER
3 Notre Dame
10 Georgia Tech
17 Boston College
24 at Miami
31 at NC State

NOVEMBER
7 Florida State
14 at Syracuse
21 Wake Forest
28 at South Carolina

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Aug.	30	at Georgia		L	21-45
Sept.	6	South Carolina State		W	73-7
Sept.	20	at Florida State	(ot)	L	17-23
Sept.	27	North Carolina		W	50-35
Oct.	4	NC State		W	41-0
Oct.	11	Louisville		W	23-17
Oct.	18	at Boston College		W	17-13
Oct.	25	Syracuse		W	16-6
Nov.	6	at Wake Forest		W	34-20
Nov.	15	at Georgia Tech		L	6-28
Nov.	22	Georgia State		W	28-0
Nov.	29	South Carolina		W	35-17
Dec.	29	vs. Oklahoma #		W	40-6

#Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deon Cain, WR, Tampa, FL
2. Mitch Hyatt, OT, Suwanee, GA
3. Christian Wilkins, DT, Longmeadow, MA
4. Ray Ray McCloud, WR, Land O'Lakes, FL
5. Albert Huggins, DE, Orangeburg, SC
6. Mark Fields, CB, Cornelius, NC
7. Clelin Ferrell, DE, Richmond, VA
8. Jake Fruhmorgen, OT, Tampa, FL
9. Garrett Williams, TE, Orlando, FL
10. Austin Bryant, DE, Pavo, GA

Clemson's defense recorded 131 tackles for a loss in 2014, most in the FBS. Seniors accounted for 87.5 of them, however.

STAT CORNER
131

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	30.8 ppg	7	51
Rushing	146.5 ypg	9	88
Passing	261.8 ypg	3	38
Total	408.3 ypg	7	58
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	16.7 ppg	1	3
Rushing	103.4 ypg	2	5
Passing	157.4 ypg	1	2
Total	260.8 ypg	1	1
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+6	0.46	2	33

OFFENSE The moment Clemson fans had dreaded for the better part of four years finally arrived in December when offensive coordinator Chad Morris became SMU's new head coach. But the Tigers' offense shouldn't look that different as long as star sophomore quarterback Deshaun Watson stays healthy. Coach Dabo Swinney opted for continuity, elevating running backs coach Tony Elliott and wide receivers coach Jeff Scott to co-offensive coordinators.

Watson is the key. In eight games (five starts), he threw for 1,466 yards with 14 touchdowns against two interceptions, but he missed nearly five full games with a broken finger and later a torn ACL. He had surgery in December and will be healthy for the season opener. With Cole Stoudt at the helm, the offense largely struggled. Clemson averaged 30.8 points per game, No. 51 nationally, and ranked 110th in red zone offense.

Watson is a dynamic dual threat with excellent targets in Mike Williams and Artavis Scott, who combined for 1,995 yards with 14 touchdowns on 133 receptions a year ago. Wayne Gallman leads an improving backfield as a powerful speed back. There are questions about a line that must replace both starting guards, particularly surrounding mercurial senior left tackle Isaiah Battle. But if Watson is healthy, the Tigers' offense should be scary good.

DEFENSE Brent Venables raised some eyebrows when he left Oklahoma to take over Clemson's struggling defense in January 2012; but three years later, it looks like a brilliant move. Last fall, the Tigers had the nation's top overall defense, allowing 260.8 yards per game, and the No. 3 scoring defense, yielding 16.7 points per game. The challenge? Repeating the feat after losing nearly the entire defensive line two-deep (including Clemson's career sack leader Vic Beasley) as well as middle linebacker Stephone Anthony, the team's leading tackler.

Junior defensive end Shaq Lawson will be expected to take his game to the next level: He was a freshman All-American two years ago and had 3.5 sacks as a reserve last fall.

Junior Ben Boulware, one of the defense's most intense players, will step into a lead role at weak-side linebacker. He and senior B.J. Goodson will have to carry bigger loads while a pair of hard-hitting redshirt freshmen — Kendall Joseph and Korie Rogers — provide depth.

The secondary will be a major strength. Sophomore cornerback Mackensie Alexander established himself as one of the ACC's top cornerbacks with excellent shutdown ability. Safety Jayron Kearse is an athletic specimen who is expected to take the next step this fall. Clemson was No. 2 nationally in pass defense a year ago, allowing 157.4 passing yards per game, and the defense will lean on the secondary again while the new defensive line gets acclimated.

SPECIALISTS Clemson's only early draft departure was junior punter Bradley Pinion, who averaged 42.6 yards per boot. His replacement, junior Andy Teasdall, had two punts for 87 yards last fall. Kicker Ammon Lakip struggled initially while replacing Chandler Catanzaro, but he recovered to make 21-of-28 field goals and finish as a Lou Groza Award semifinalist.

FINAL ANALYSIS Under Dabo Swinney, Clemson has developed into one of the nation's steadiest programs, winning 42 games over the last four seasons with an ACC title and bowl wins over LSU, Ohio State and Oklahoma. Now is the time for the Tigers to take the next step and make a run at the College Football Playoff. This group has the talent and the schedule to win the ACC. From there, the sky is the limit.


DESHAUN WATSON

"They've never been great on the O-line, but they've recruited some more talented players that should start to pay off."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	7	**Mike Williams (Jr.)**	1	Trevion Thompson (Fr.)	
WR	3	Artavis Scott (So.)	5	Germone Hopper (Jr.)	
WR	19	Charone Peake (Sr.)		Deon Cain (Fr.)	
LT	79	**Isaiah Battle (Sr.)**	75	Mitch Hyatt (Fr.)	
LG	78	Eric Mac Lain (Sr.)	69	Maverick Morris (Fr.)	
C	58	**Ryan Norton (Sr.)**	57	Jay Guillermo (Jr.)	
RG	55	Tyrone Crowder (So.)	51	Taylor Hearn (Fr.)	
RT	73	Joe Gore (Sr.)	63	Jake Fruhmorgen (Fr.)	
TE	16	Jordan Leggett (Jr.)	81	Stanton Seckinger (Sr.)	
QB	4	Deshaun Watson (So.)	12	Nick Schuessler (Jr.)	
RB	9	**Wayne Gallman (So.)**	23	Tyshon Dye (So.)	

DEFENSE (2)

DE	90	Shaq Lawson (Jr.)	1	Ebenezer Ogundeko (So.)
DT	48	D.J. Reader (Sr.)	56	Scott Pagano (So.)
DT	94	Carlos Watkins (Jr.)		Christian Wilkins (Fr.)
DE	98	Kevin Dodd (Jr.)	49	Richard Yeargin (Fr.)
WLB	10	Ben Boulware (Jr.)	43	Korie Rogers (Fr.)
MLB	44	B.J. Goodson (Sr.)	34	Kendall Joseph (Fr.)
SLB	12	Korrin Wiggins (Jr.)	6	Dorian O'Daniel (So.)
CB	2	**Mackensie Alexander (So.)**	31	Ryan Carter (So.)
CB	25	Cordrea Tankersley (Jr.)		Mark Fields (Fr.)
S	20	**Jayron Kearse (Jr.)**		Van Smith (Fr.)
S	18	Jadar Johnson (Jr.)	15	T.J. Green (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Ammon Lakip (Sr.)	KR	15	T.J. Green (Jr.)
P	95	Andy Teasdall (Jr.)	PR	5	Germone Hopper (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Deshaun Watson, 137-93-1,466-2, 14 TD
Rushing: Wayne Gallman, 161 att., 769 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Artavis Scott, 76 rec., 965 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Jayron Kearse, 60
Sacks: Shaq Lawson, 3.5
Interceptions: Three players tied with 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

David Tulis

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

National Forecast: 9
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Jimbo Fisher
Record at School: 58-11 (5 years)
Career Record: 58-11 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jimbo Fisher
Defensive Coordinator: Charles Kelly
Tallahassee, FL
Doak Campbell Stadium (82,300)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Texas State
12 South Florida
18 at Boston College

OCTOBER
3 at Wake Forest
10 Miami
17 Louisville
24 at Georgia Tech
31 Syracuse

NOVEMBER
7at Clemson
14 NC State
21 Chattanooga
28 at Florida

2014 RESULTS (13-1, 8-0)

Aug.	30	vs. Oklahoma State	$	W	37-31
Sept.	6	The Citadel		W	37-12
Sept.	20	Clemson	(ot)	W	23-17
Sept.	27	at NC State		W	56-41
Oct.	4	Wake Forest		W	43-3
Oct.	11	at Syracuse		W	38-20
Oct.	18	Notre Dame		W	31-27
Oct.	30	at Louisville		W	42-31
Nov.	8	Virginia		W	34-20
Nov.	15	at Miami		W	30-26
Nov.	22	Boston College		W	20-17
Nov.	29	Florida		W	24-19
Dec.	6	vs. Georgia Tech	%	W	37-35
Jan.	1	vs. Oregon	#	L	20-59

$Arlington %Charlotte #Rose Bowl; CFP Semifinal

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derwin James, S, Haines City, FL
2. Josh Sweat, DE, Chesapeake, VA
3. Tarvarus McFadden, CB, Plantation, FL
4. George Campbell, WR, Clearwater, FL
5. Jacques Patrick, RB, Orlando, FL
6. Deondre Francois, QB, Orlando, FL
7. Abdul Bello, OL, Vyo, Nigeria
8. Da'Vante Phillips, WR, Miami, FL
9. Marcus Lewis, ATH, Washington, DC
10. Darvin Taylor, DT, Chester, VA

STAT CORNER

7

FSU went 7-0 in one-possession games with Jameis Winston at QB. That's an impossible standard to set for a successor.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	33.7 ppg	2	33
Rushing	138.1 ypg	12	95
Passing	303.3 ypg	1	14
Total	441.4 ypg	2	35
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.6 ppg	9	49
Rushing	170.1 ypg	11	71
Passing	226.8 ypg	10	59
Total	396.9 ypg	11	61
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-6	-0.43	14	101

OFFENSE When he met with reporters in February at the NFL Scouting Combine, quarterback Jameis Winston was asked how difficult it was to leave Florida State and declare for the draft. Winston responded by pointing out that his top receiver, top tight end, four offensive linemen and a senior running back were invited to the Combine as well. "If you were playing quarterback at Florida State, what would you do?" Winston asked with a smile.

That sums up the challenge for the Seminoles. Not only did they lose Winston but also record-setting receiver Rashad Greene, record-setting tight end Nick O'Leary (the 2014 Mackey Award winner) and four seniors on the line. What's left is a group that is talented but unproven.

Tailback Dalvin Cook, who rushed for 1,008 yards as a freshman, likely will be the workhorse. Barring an upset in preseason camp, he will take handoffs from junior quarterback Sean Maguire, who appeared to distance himself from the competition in the spring. Maguire's lone college start came under emergency circumstances last September when Winston was suspended for the Clemson game. Although he passed for 304 yards and the Seminoles pulled out the win in overtime, Maguire completed just 21-of-39 passes, was intercepted twice and sacked five times.

If the offensive line, which will be fortified by a pair of junior college transfers who sat out last season, can provide protection, Maguire will have plenty of weapons to target. Travis Rudolph and Ermon Lane are coming off impressive freshman campaigns (51 receptions for 822 yards and five touchdowns combined), and juniors Jesus "Bobo" Wilson and Kermit Whitfield are looking for bigger years after struggling with consistency in 2014.

DEFENSE Despite losing two junior starters to the NFL — tackle Eddie Goldman and end Mario Edwards Jr. — FSU again will have exceptional depth in the trenches. Senior nose tackle Nile Lawrence-Stample returns after missing nearly all of last year with a chest injury, and the Seminoles have five other interior linemen with previous playing experience. A major priority this offseason has been breathing life into the pass rush, which generated just 17 sacks in 2014.

Second-year coordinator Charles Kelly will look for major improvement from the back seven, which also lost two juniors to the draft. Junior Jalen Ramsey, who earned All-America honors at safety, moved to boundary cornerback in the spring and drew rave reviews. That opened the door for talented sophomore Trey Marshall to claim the "Star" nickel back position, and he will be joined by returning safeties Tyler Hunter and Nate Andrews.

Linebacker could be a sore spot again. Terrance Smith and Reggie Northrup will start if healthy, but both are recovering from injuries, and neither was outstanding last season. Northrup, who tore his ACL vs. Oregon, can be an effective run-stuffer but sometimes struggles in space. Smith was slowed by injuries throughout his junior year and missed much of the spring with turf toe.

SPECIALISTS Junior Roberto Aguayo has been so spectacular the past two seasons that he seriously considered entering the NFL Draft. Senior punter Cason Beatty was solid in 2014, and the Seminoles' coverage units are always very good. Great improvement is needed in the kickoff return game, where FSU averaged less than 20 yards per attempt.

FINAL ANALYSIS FSU had won 29 consecutive games before falling to Oregon in the Rose Bowl, so expectations will remain high in 2015. But an extremely young offense and a retooling defense likely will keep the Seminoles out of title contention. A run at a fourth-straight ACC crown would be an achievement.


DALVIN COOK

"The biggest thing scheme-wise is I don't think they're as aggressive with Charles Kelly as they were with Jeremy Pruitt."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	3	**Jesus Wilson (Jr.)**	1	Ermon Lane (So.)	
WR	15	Travis Rudolph (So.)	13	Ja'Vonn Harrison (So.)	
LT	77	**Roderick Johnson (So.)**	74	Derrick Kelly (Fr.)	
LG	72	Kareem Are (Jr.)	59	Ryan Hoefield (So.)	
C	59	Ryan Hoefield (So.)	54	Alec Eberle (Fr.)	
RG	78	Wilson Bell (So.)	57	Corey Martinez (Fr.)	
RT	55	Chad Mavety (Jr.)	71	Brock Ruble (Fr.)	
TE	88	Mavin Saunders (Fr.)	85	Jeremy Kerr (So.)	
QB	10	Sean Maguire (Jr.)	11	John Franklin III (So.)	
FB	23	**Freddie Stevenson (Jr.)**	22	Johnathan Vickers (So.)	
RB	4	Dalvin Cook (So.)	7	Mario Pender (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	44	**DeMarcus Walker (Jr.)**	16	Jacob Pugh (So.)	
DT	99	Nile Lawrence-Stample (Sr.)	91	Derrick Nnadi (So.)	
DT	11	**Derrick Mitchell (Sr.)**	90	Demarcus Christmas (Fr.)	
DE	21	Chris Casher (Jr.)	41	Lorenzo Featherston (So.)	
LB	5	**Reggie Northrup (Sr.)**	18	Ro'Derrick Hoskins (So.)	
LB	24	**Terrance Smith (Sr.)**	5	Matthew Thomas (So.)	
CB	8	**Jalen Ramsey (Jr.)**	37	Keelin Smith (Sr.)	
CB	27	Marquez White (Jr.)	7	Ryan Green (Jr.)	
S	1	**Tyler Hunter (Sr.)**	42	Lamarcus Brutus (Sr.)	
S	29	**Nate Andrews (Jr.)**	3	Derwin James (Fr.)	
NB	20	Trey Marshall (So.)	8	Jalen Ramsey (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Roberto Aguayo (Jr.)	KR	8	Kermit Whitfield (Jr.)
P	38	Cason Beatty (Sr.)	PR	3	Jesus Wilson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sean Maguire, 49-25-339-2, 1 TD
Rushing: Dalvin Cook, 170 att., 1,008 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jesus Wilson, 42 rec., 527 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Reggie Northrup, 122
Sacks: Mario Edwards Jr., 3.0; Jalen Ramsey, 3.0
Interceptions: Nate Andrews, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

National Forecast: 38
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Bobby Petrino
Record at School: 50-13 (5 years)
Career Record: 92-34 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Garrick McGee
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Grantham
Louisville, KY
Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (55,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	vs. Auburn #	
12	Houston	
17	Clemson	
26	Samford	
OCTOBER		
3	at NC State	
17	at Florida State	
24	Boston College	
30	at Wake Forest	
NOVEMBER		
7	Syracuse	
14	Virginia	
21	at Pittsburgh	
28	at Kentucky	

#Atlanta, GA

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Sept.	1	Miami	W	31-13
Sept.	6	Murray State	W	66-21
Sept.	13	at Virginia	L	21-23
Sept.	20	at FIU	W	34-3
Sept.	27	Wake Forest	W	20-10
Oct.	3	at Syracuse	W	28-6
Oct.	11	at Clemson	L	17-23
Oct.	18	NC State	W	30-18
Oct.	30	Florida State	L	31-42
Nov.	8	at Boston College	W	38-19
Nov.	22	at Notre Dame	W	31-28
Nov.	29	Kentucky	W	44-40
Dec.	30	vs. Georgia #	L	14-37

#Belk Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Devante Fields, DE, Forth Worth, TX*
2. Dee Smith, LB, Florence, AL
3. Devante Peete, WR, Fort Laudercale, FL
4. Lamar Jackson, QB, Boynton Beach, FL
5. Traveon Samuel, ATH, Phenix City, AL
6. Amonte Caban, LB, Smiths Station, AL
7. Jeremy Smith, RB, Hammond, LA
8. James Allen, RB, Citra, FL
9. Khane Pass, DB, Columbus, GA
10. Emonee Spence, WR, Hollywood, FL

*junior college transfer

Bobby Petrino's record against Kentucky in his five seasons as the head coach at Louisville. The Cards topped UK 44-40 last year.

STAT CORNER

5-0

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	31.2 ppg	6	50
Rushing	142.7 ypg	11	92
Passing	252.0 ypg	4	46
Total	394.7 ypg	9	69
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	21.8 ppg	4	24
Rushing	108.9 ypg	3	10
Passing	199.6 ypg	6	26
Total	308.5 ypg	2	6
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+4	+0.31	6	43

OFFENSE Bobby Petrino isn't much closer to settling on a quarterback than he was before the 2014 season. Arguments can be made for Reggie Bonnafon (the best runner), Kyle Bolin (he beat Kentucky), Will Gardner (if he can get healthy) or Tyler Ferguson (solid spring). Most favor Bonnafon because of his athleticism and youth, but the Cardinals could feature the same revolving door as last season.

Louisville lost three top receivers, so expect the Cards to run the ball early with Brandon Radcliff, who averaged 97 yards in the final three games against Notre Dame, Kentucky and Georgia. L.J. Scott and Jeremy Smith are solid backups. The coaches are also intrigued by Malin Jones, a transfer from Northwestern.

Who's going to catch the football? The Cards are waiting for junior James Quick to fulfill the five-star hype he earned in high school. Quick struggled with drops and off-the-field issues last season. Two transfers must deliver at wide receiver — Ja'Quay Savage (Texas A&M) and Jamari Staples, who caught 31 passes for 458 yards and four scores at UAB last year. Tight end Keith Towbridge should blossom after splitting time with the departed Gerald Christian.

The offensive line needs work and experience after losing three starters. Center Tobijah Hughley is a former walk-on who earned a scholarship and a starting spot last season. Aaron Epps, a formidable run blocker, returns to anchor the right side. This could be a trouble spot in early games with Auburn and Clemson.

DEFENSE Petrino surprised by winning with defense last season, but the unit, which ranked in the top five nationally in total defense and scoring defense until melting down in the final two games, must replace seven starters.

The front seven remains formidable. Defensive ends Sheldon Rankins and Pio Vatuvei are solid run stoppers who can also pursue the quarterback. DeAngelo Brown is a 320-pound roadblock in the middle. The Cards added Devonte Fields, a former Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year while at TCU who played in junior college last year. He could have a huge impact.

Linebackers James Burgess, Keith Kelsey and Keith Brown were among the highest-rated recruits signed by the previous staff. They're experienced and can make plays. Expect Henry Famurewa or Finesse Middleton to step in at weak-side linebacker.

You'll need a program to identify the secondary, but Petrino is not as concerned as most coaches would be. Why? Two replacements are safety Josh Harvey-Clemons and cornerback Shaq Wiggins, who practiced with Louisville last season after they were dismissed at Georgia. Harvey-Clemons is a possible first-round pick in 2016. Cornelius Sturghill, a redshirt freshman, should move into the other corner spot. Chucky Williams will battle Zykiesis Cannon at the other safety.

SPECIALISTS Senior placekicker John Wallace needs 10 field goals to become the school's all-time leader. Josh Appleby becomes the punter after three seasons as the backup. The return game didn't give Louisville an edge last season. Petrino hopes that Staples (punts) and Williams (kickoffs) will fix that.

FINAL ANALYSIS Louisville has lost considerable talent and undergone a coaching staff change over the last two seasons. Those are warning signs the program could take a step back in 2015, especially with a schedule that includes Auburn and Clemson in two of the first three games. The Cardinals need a quarterback to emerge, receivers to step forward, three new offensive linemen to step up and a rebuilt secondary to deliver to keep winning big. That's a lot to ask.


KEITH KELSEY

"They're probably the best defense we played last year, and I think everyone in the league would tell you that."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	19	Ja'Quay Savage (Jr.)	84	Gio Pascascio (Jr.)	
WR	**17**	**James Quick (Jr.)**	80	Charles Standberry (So.)	
WR	2	Jamari Staples (Jr.)	88	Javonte Bagley (So.)	
LT	76	Kelby Johnson (Sr.)	72	Lukayus McNeil (Fr.)	
LG	73	Pedro Sibiea (Jr.)	50	Khalil Hunter (Jr.)	
C	**61**	**Tobijah Hughley (Jr.)**	62	T.C. Klusman (Jr.)	
RG	75	Skylar Lacy (So.)	64	Gabe Ahner (Jr.)	
RT	**78**	**Aaron Epps (Sr.)**	68	Danny Burns (Fr.)	
TE	89	Keith Towbridge (So.)	83	Micky Crum (So.)	
QB	7	Reggie Bonnafon (So.)	14	Kyle Bolin (So.)	
RB	23	Brandon Radcliff (Jr.)	27	L.J. Scott (So.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**98**	**Sheldon Rankins (Sr.)**		Devonte Fields (Jr.)	
DT	97	DeAngelo Brown (Sr.)	90	Johnny Richardson (So.)	
DE	**44**	**Pio Vatuvei (Sr.)**	95	Kyle Shortridge (So.)	
LB	1	Keith Brown (Jr.)	52	Nick Dawson (Jr.)	
LB	**55**	**Keith Kelsey (Jr.)**	32	Stacy Thomas (So.)	
LB	**13**	**James Burgess (Sr.)**	91	Trevon Young (Sr.)	
LB	96	Henry Famurewa (So.)	57	Finesse Middleton (So.)	
CB	6	Shaq Wiggins (Jr.)	29	Trumaine Washington (So.)	
CB	3	Cornelius Sturghill (Fr.)	10	Jaire Alexander (Fr.)	
S	25	Josh Harvey-Clemons (Jr.)	41	Jarrod Barnes (Jr.)	
S	22	Chucky Williams (So.)	24	Zykiesis Cannon (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	John Wallace (Sr.)	KR	19	Ja'Quay Savage (Jr.)
P	40	Josh Appleby (Sr.)	PR	2	Jamari Staples (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Will Gardner, 221-127-1,669-3, 12 TD
Rushing: Brandon Radcliff, 144 att., 737 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: James Quick, 36 rec., 566 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Keith Kelsey, 87
Sacks: Sheldon Rankins, 8.0
Interceptions: James Burgess, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

NC STATE WOLFPACK

National Forecast: 39
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Dave Doeren
Record at School: 11–14 (2 years)
Career Record: 34-18 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Canada
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Huxtable
Raleigh, NC • Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Troy
12 Eastern Kentucky
19 at Old Dominion
26 at South Alabama

OCTOBER
3 Louisville
9 at Virginia Tech
24 at Wake Forest
31 Clemson

NOVEMBER
7 at Boston College
14 at Florida State
21 Syracuse
28 North Carolina

2014 RESULTS (8-5,3-5)

Aug.	30	Georgia Southern	W	24-23
Sept.	6	Old Dominion	W	46-34
Sept.	13	at South Florida	W	49-17
Sept.	20	Presbyterian	W	42-0
Sept.	27	Florida State	L	41-56
Oct.	4	at Clemson	L	0-41
Oct.	11	Boston College	L	14-30
Oct.	18	at Louisville	L	18-30
Nov.	1	at Syracuse	W	24-17
Nov.	8	Georgia Tech	L	23-56
Nov.	15	Wake Forest	W	42-13
Nov.	29	at North Carolina	W	35-7
Dec.	26	vs. UCF #	W	34-27

#St. Petersburg Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Johnny Frasier, RB, Princeton, NC
2. Darian Roseboro, DE, Lincolnton, NC
3. Nyheim Hines, RB/WR, Garner, NC
4. Emanuel McGirt, T, Durham, NC
5. Reggie Gallaspy, RB, High Point, NC
6. Tyrone Riley, DE, Savannah, GA
7. Freddie Simmons, WR, Bethlehem, PA
8. Emmanuel Olenga, DE, Charlotte, NC
9. Riley Nicholson, LB, Kissimmee, FL
10. Quentez Johnson, DT, Ellenwood, GA

STAT CORNER

11.6%

Improvement in NC State's offensive success rate from 2013 (37.4%) to 2014 (49.0%). Jacoby Brissett's impact was significant.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	30.2 ppg	8	55
Rushing	204.5 ypg	4	37
Passing	204.0 ypg	9	82
Total	408.5 ypg	6	57
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	27.0 ppg	13	65
Rushing	168.4 ypg	10	65
Passing	204.7 ypg	7	30
Total	373.1 ypg	10	46
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+5	+0.38	5	37

OFFENSE NC State couldn't have asked for much more from quarterback Jacoby Brissett last year. The Florida transfer threw for 2,606 yards, ran for 529 more, had a total of 26 touchdowns and threw only five interceptions. Multiple times during the season, coach Dave Doeren cited Brissett as the main reason for the team's improvement from 3–9 to 8–5. This year, the Wolfpack will want a little more consistency from the senior, who finished the 2014 season with a flourish after a midseason slump.

The running game, which averaged 204.5 yards per game last season (the program's best since 1992), is in great shape with the return of running backs Shadrach Thornton and Matt Dayes. Three highly touted recruits — Johnny Frasier, Reggie Gallaspy and Nyheim Hines — join the rotation and have the type of talent to make an immediate impact.

Hines might have more of a role as a pass catcher and in jet sweep packages. The Wolfpack are thin at receiver, but senior tight end David J. Grinnage has developed into a reliable red zone target. Two new starting tackles will have to get acclimated on the offensive line, which is a major concern.

DEFENSE Doeren and defensive coordinator Dave Huxtable had hoped to establish NC State's base defense and win without a high volume of blitzes. After seven games, they changed their strategy, and the defense responded with its best performances of the season.

Defensive end Mike Rose and defensive tackles Justin Jones, B.J. Hill, Kenton Gibbs and Monty Nelson all got valuable reps last season and will help offset the loss of seniors T.Y. McGill, Thomas Teal and Art Norman. Sophomore Kentavius Street, the prize of his recruiting class in 2014, will get more snaps inside this season, while sophomore Bradley Chubb has been moved from linebacker to end.

Linebacker was a question mark heading into last season, especially after expected starter M.J. Salahuddin tore ligaments in his left knee in August and missed the whole season. But sophomores Jerod Fernandez and Airius Moore found their legs, especially after Huxtable loosened up the defense and used more blitzing schemes after an early October loss to Boston College.

All five starters return in the defensive backfield, led by senior free safety Hakim Jones, who had a team-best 80 tackles, and junior cornerback Jack Tocho, who is the team's best defender in pass coverage.

SPECIALISTS The Wolfpack have to start over at all specialist positions after having the same kicker-punter-long snapper trio for four straight years. Freshman Kyle Bambard has to replace Niklas Sade, the school's all-time leading scorer, at kicker. Bambard and freshman punter A.J. Cole both enrolled in January. The return game did not have much punch last year, but Doeren is excited about the potential of redshirt freshman receiver Maurice Trowell to return kickoffs and for Hines to help with punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS NC State improved its win total by five games from 2013 to '14. The Wolfpack hope to make another jump in 2015 with a veteran quarterback and seven starters back on defense. Another five-game improvement might be asking too much, but Doeren won't put a ceiling on the program's progress.

The key to moving the momentum forward again will be replacing main parts up front on both sides of the ball. But with the return of Brissett and a host of new talented recruits supplementing an already deep backfield, the Wolfpack have an opportunity to at least push Atlantic Division powers Florida State and Clemson.


JACOBY BRISSETT

"(Jacoby Brissett) wasn't real consistent at times, but he's one of the more dynamic players in the league."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	15	Johnathan Alston (Jr.)	**13**	**Bra'Lon Cherry (Jr.)**	
WR	85	Jumichael Ramos (Jr.)	88	Stephen Louis (So.)	
WR		Nyheim Hines (Fr.)	30	Gavin Locklear (So.)	
LT	53	Tyler Jones (Fr.)	66	Will Richardson (Fr.)	
LG	**54**	**Joe Thuney (Sr.)**	56	Bryce Kennedy (Jr.)	
C	**60**	**Quinton Schooley (Sr.)**	61	T.J. McCoy (Fr.)	
RG	**50**	**Tony Adams (So.)**	70	Terronne Prescod (Fr.)	
RT	**71**	**Alex Barr (Sr.)**		Emanuel McGirt (Fr.)	
TE	**86**	**David J. Grinnage (Jr.)**	89	Benson Browne (Sr.)	
QB	**12**	**Jacoby Brissett (Sr.)**	2	Jalan McClendon (Fr.)	
RB	10	Shadrach Thornton (Sr.)	21	Matt Dayes (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	49	Bradley Chubb (So.)	87	Pharoah McKever (So.)	
DT	35	Kentavius Street (So.)	93	Justin Jones (So.)	
DT	98	B.J. Hill (So.)	93	Justin Jones (So.)	
DE	**90**	**Mike Rose (Sr.)**	45	Darian Roseboro (Fr.)	
LB	**4**	**Jerod Fernandez (So.)**	42	M.J. Salahuddin (Jr.)	
LB	58	Airius Moore (So.)	44	Ford Howell (So.)	
CB	**29**	**Jack Tocho (Jr.)**	30	Mike Stevens (So.)	
CB	**11**	**Juston Burris (Sr.)**	22	Troy Vincent Jr. (So.)	
NB	**8**	**Dravious Wright (Jr.)**	10	Freddie Phillips Jr. (Fr.)	
S	**20**	**Hakim Jones (Sr.)**	31	Germaine Pratt (So.)	
S	**2**	**Josh Jones (So.)**	24	Shawn Boone (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Kyle Bambard (Fr.)	**KR**	87	Maurice Trowell (Fr.)
P	90	A.J. Cole (Fr.)	**PR**		Nyheim Hines (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jacoby Brissett, 370-221-2,606-5, 23 TDs
Rushing: Shadrach Thornton, 164 att., 907 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Matt Dayes, 32 rec., 321 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Hakim Jones, 80
Sacks: Mike Rose, 5.0
Interceptions: Josh Jones, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

SYRACUSE ORANGE

National Forecast: 85
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Scott Shafer
Record at School: 10-15 (2 years)
Career Record: 10-15 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Lester
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bullough
Syracuse, NY • Carrier Dome (49,262)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Rhode Island
12 Wake Forest
19 Central Michigan
26 LSU

OCTOBER
10 at South Florida
17 at Virginia
24 Pittsburgh
31 at Florida State

NOVEMBER
7 at Louisville
14 Clemson
21 at NC State
28 Boston College

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Aug.	29	Villanova (ot)	W	27-26
Sept.	13	at Central Michigan	W	40-3
Sept.	20	Maryland	L	20-34
Sept.	27	vs. Notre Dame #	L	15-31
Oct.	3	Louisville	L	6-28
Oct.	11	Florida State	L	20-38
Oct.	18	at Wake Forest	W	30-7
Oct.	25	at Clemson	L	6-16
Nov.	1	NC State	L	17-24
Nov.	8	Duke	L	10-27
Nov.	22	at Pittsburgh	L	7-30
Nov.	29	at Boston College	L	7-28

#East Rutherford

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dontae Strickland, RB, Dayton, NJ
2. Marquise Blair, S, Wooster, OH
3. Amir Ealey, DE, Coatesville, PA
4. Qaadir Sheppard, DE, Bronx, NY
5. Tyrone Perkins, RB, Locust Valley, NY
6. Eric Dungey, QB, Lake Oswego, OR
7. Cody Conway, OT, Plainfield, IL
8. Troy Henderson Jr., LB, Cleveland, OH
9. Andrejas Duerig, OL, Lowell, IN
10. Jake Pickard, DE, Short Hills, NJ

Syracuse's average points per game in 2014, a dreadful number and the Orange's worst average since 2007's 2-10 campaign.

STAT CORNER
17.1

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	17.1 ppg	13	118
Rushing	145.8 ypg	10	90
Passing	184.1 ypg	11	103
Total	329.9 ypg	13	113
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.3 ppg	8	37
Rushing	139.3 ypg	6	31
Passing	209.9 ypg	9	38
Total	349.2 ypg	6	26
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-1	-0.08	10	69

OFFENSE Fifth-year senior quarterback Terrel Hunt is one of the few steady figures on the roster despite fracturing his fibula midway through last season. Hunt likely will be Syracuse's best running threat, but he is working to develop as a pocket passer with the ability to use his feet, much like Seattle's Russell Wilson. That aligns with offensive coordinator Tim Lester's system, which will feature more downfield routes and simpler terminology.

The Orange lose more than 67 percent of their running back production to graduation. And with Erv Philips sliding to the H-back position, juniors Devante McFarlane and George Morris II are expected to take the majority of carries by true running backs. Philips and senior Ashton Broyld, arguably the team's two most dynamic playmakers, will take handoffs both between the tackles and on the perimeter from the H-back position.

Steve Ishmael is the only proven entity at wide receiver after starring as a true freshman. Lining up opposite him is junior Alvin Cornelius, who recorded as many tackles as receptions last season (three), but was a standout player in the spring. Junior Brisly Estime may be SU's fastest skill-position player, but ankle and foot injuries derailed his 2014 season and carried into the spring.

With Sean Hickey off to the NFL, Syracuse has a three-year starter to replace at left tackle. The leading candidate is senior Ivan Foy, who has played primarily at right tackle the last two seasons. Rob Trudo, a two-year starter at left guard, is likely to replace center John Miller. The biggest question facing the unit: Can it stay healthy? SU played 10 offensive linemen last season.

DEFENSE The good news for the front four is that junior Ron Thompson, once a four-star tight end recruit, returns to his natural defensive position on the end of the line. The bad news? Senior defensive tackle Wayne Williams is the next-most-productive returner after a nine-tackle season in 2014. New faces will be relied on to produce immediately, including 23-year-old Luke Arciniega, who was granted two additional years of eligibility by the NCAA in March.

Possibly the strongest position on the team last year, the linebacker corps loses NFL hopefuls Cameron Lynch and Dyshawn Davis. Sophomore middle backer Zaire Franklin steps in as the unit's leader. He's smart, savvy and well respected by his teammates. Marqez Hodge will slide to the weak-side spot in 2015, while sophomore Parris Bennett has the inside track for the strong-side spot.

Cornerback Julian Whigham returns from what he described as a "wasted" junior year as the secondary's most experienced player. Wayne Morgan is expected to line up opposite Whigham. There is little experience at safety, where sophomores Chauncey Scissum and Rodney Williams are the expected starters.

SPECIALISTS Senior punter Riley Dixon is one of the team's most talented players, and he got more than his fair share of work last season. After winning the starting placekicking job last year as a true freshman, walk-on Cole Murphy will have to defend his spot against two scholarship kickers in senior Ryan Norton and incoming freshman Sterling Hofrichter. In the return game, McFarlane and Philips are the likely choices for kickoffs, while Estime brings experience returning punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS Syracuse head coach Scott Shafer has his work cut out to improve on a 3–9 season. Margin for error will be slim with a new offensive system and eight new defensive starters. And with (now former) athletic director Daryl Gross choosing to "take on new challenges" following the NCAA's handing down of sanctions in March, Shafer could be coaching for his job.


ASHTON BROYLD

"It seemed like they were trying to do way too much to compensate for the fact that they didn't have enough playmakers."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	8	Steve Ishmael (So.)	9	Brisly Estime (Jr.)	
WR	82	Alvin Cornelius (Jr.)	81	Jamal Custis (So.)	
LT	72	Ivan Foy (Sr.)	67	Michael Lasker (Sr.)	
LG	**68**	**Nick Robinson (Sr.)**	71	Alex Hayes (So.)	
C	**55**	**Rob Trudo (Sr.)**	78	Jason Emerich (Jr.)	
RG	59	Aaron Roberts (Fr.)	57	Omari Palmer (Jr.)	
RT	**57**	**Omari Palmer (Jr.)**	65	Jamar McGloster (So.)	
TE	**89**	**Josh Parris (Jr.)**	11	Trey Dunkelberger (So.)	
HB	1	Ashton Broyld (Sr.)	14	Erv Philips (So.)	
QB	10	Terrel Hunt (Sr.)	4	AJ Long (So.)	
RB	29	Devante McFarlane (Jr.)	27	George Morris II (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	**13**	**Ron Thompson (Jr.)**		Jake Pickard
DT	50	John Raymon (Sr.)	95	Chris Slayton (Fr.)
DT	97	Kayton Samuels (Fr.)	75	Wayne Williams (Sr.)
DE	51	Donnie Simmons (Sr.)	5	Luke Arciniega (Jr.)
LB	**33**	**Marqez Hodge (Jr.)**	7	Oliver Vigille (Sr.)
LB	45	Zaire Franklin (So.)	14	Colton Moskal (Fr.)
LB	30	Parris Bennett (So.)	17	Jonathan Thomas (So.)
CB	**1**	**Julian Whigham (Sr.)**	11	Corey Winfield (So.)
CB	2	Wayne Morgan (Sr.)	28	Antwan Cordy (So.)
S	21	Chauncey Scissum (So.)	28	Antwan Cordy (So.)
S	16	Rodney Williams (So.)		Marquise Blair (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Cole Murphy (So.)	KR	29	Devante McFarlane (Jr.)
P	91	Riley Dixon (Sr.)	PR	9	Brisly Estime (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Terrel Hunt, 145-83-983-4, 1 TD
Rushing: Terrel Hunt, 52 att., 292 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Steve Ishmael, 27 rec., 415 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Zaire Franklin, 44
Sacks: Marqez Hodge, 2.0; Ron Thompson, 2.0
Interceptions: Antwan Cordy, 1; Julian Whigham, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

National Forecast: 82
ACC Atlantic Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Dave Clawson
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 93-89 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Warren Ruggiero
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Elko
Winston-Salem, NC • BB&T Field (31,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Elon
12 at Syracuse
19 at Army
26 Indiana

OCTOBER
3 Florida State
10 at Boston College
17 at North Carolina
24 NC State
30 Louisville

NOVEMBER
14 at Notre Dame
21 at Clemson
28 Duke

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Aug.	28	at UL Monroe	L	10-17
Sept.	6	Gardner-Webb	W	23-7
Sept.	13	at Utah State	L	24-36
Sept.	20	Army	W	24-21
Sept.	27	at Louisville	L	10-20
Oct.	4	at Florida State	L	3-43
Oct.	18	Syracuse	L	7-30
Oct.	25	Boston College	L	17-23
Nov.	6	Clemson	L	20-34
Nov.	15	at NC State	L	13-42
Nov.	22	Virginia Tech	(ot) W	6-3
Nov.	29	at Duke	L	21-41

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kyle Kearns, QB, San Ramon, CA
2. Dionte Austin, CB, Baltimore, MD
3. Rocky Reid, RB, Mount Pleasant, NC
4. Bowman Archibald, TE, Dade City, FL
5. Steven Claude, WR, Miami, FL
6. Scott Washington, WR, Washington, DC
7. Kendall Hinton, QB, Durham, NC
8. Nathan Gilliam, OT, Knoxville, TN
9. Chris Calhoun, DL, Alpharetta, GA
10. Paris Black, DE, Fayetteville, NC

Percentage of Wake Forest rushes that were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage, easily the worst in the country.

STAT CORNER

36.8

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	14.8 ppg	14	124
Rushing	39.9 ypg	14	124
Passing	176.3 ypg	12	107
Total	216.3 ypg	14	125
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	26.4 ppg	12	61
Rushing	182.7 ypg	12	81
Passing	186.6 ypg	2	12
Total	369.3 ypg	9	40
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-2	-0.17	11	76

OFFENSE With a freshman quarterback and an overmatched offensive line, Wake Forest's offense was historically bad. The Deacons allowed 48 sacks, the most in the country, and 37 percent of their runs went for a loss or no gain. Overall, Wake Forest's 3.4 yards per play ranked last in the nation — by a wide margin.

Second-year coach Dave Clawson sees the offensive line improving, despite losing two starters and inserting three redshirt freshmen, and more playmakers arriving in the latest recruiting class. "The offensive line was the root of our problems a year ago and that will be a reason for our improvement next year," he says.

Quarterback John Wolford took a beating and improved: He threw only four interceptions in the final seven games. But Wolford struggled to get passes downfield (only two of 35-plus yards in ACC play). Freshmen Kendall Hinton and Kyle Kearns will compete for the job.

Dez Wortham and Isaiah Robinson return in the backfield, but neither broke a run longer than 20 yards nor provided a pass-catching threat. So Clawson likely will look to highly rated recruits Rocky Reid (originally a Tennessee commit) and Matt Colburn (originally a Louisville commit).

Wake Forest's receivers have struggled to hold on to the ball lately, but Clawson is encouraged by the return of Tyree Harris, who redshirted in 2014 after showing promise as a true freshman, and the impact of new faces. Speedy freshman Tabari Hines enrolled early and will take over in the slot. He was a spring standout, along with redshirt freshman Cortez Lewis. Wolford built a connection with tight end Cam Serigne, who led the Deacons in all receiving categories in 2014.

DEFENSE The defense pulled off a miracle to finish in the middle of the ACC, and the veteran unit will have to lead the way again. The Deacons should be better up front and have one of the ACC's best units at linebacker, but cornerbacks Kevin Johnson and Merrill Noel and their 84 starts are gone.

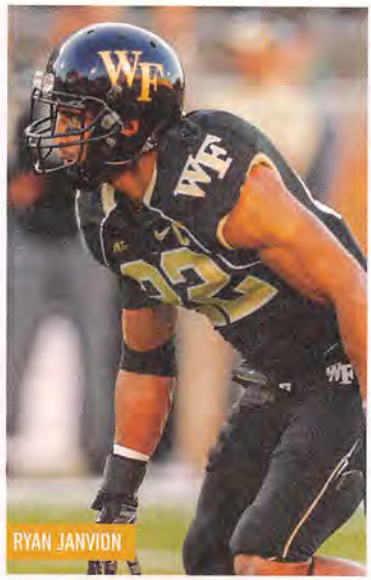
The defensive line proved it could speed rush, with Wendell Dunn and Josh Banks combining for 15 tackles for a loss with three forced fumbles and an interception. But Clawson wasn't as happy with the unit's ability to control the line. Tylor Harris will need to stand out in the middle.

At linebacker, senior Brandon Chubb and junior Marquel Lee combined for 210 tackles last season. They're teamed with senior Hunter Williams and backed by a strong group of young players. "That position is the one position right now that we look like an ACC team," Clawson says.

The replacements for Johnson and Noel missed spring practice, and while Brad Watson (wrist) will return, Bryant Gross-Armien (ACL) is more questionable. Top recruit Dionte Austin could see playing time. Starting safeties Ryan Janvion and Thomas Brown are solid, but they're backed by two redshirt freshmen.

SPECIALISTS If you have a struggling offense, it helps to have a good punter, and the Deacons have one of the nation's best in Alex Kinal. Mike Weaver opened his career with 10 straight field-goal makes and finished his first season 15-of-19. Wake's returners haven't produced big plays in years.

FINAL ANALYSIS Clawson, coming off two straight bowl games at Bowling Green, walked into a disaster. The Deacons will be one of the nation's youngest teams again, and the offense could feature eight underclassmen as starters. They have a difficult schedule and are likely a year away from being truly competitive, but Clawson's recruiting classes have been historically good, giving hope that he can transform the program.


RYAN JANVION

"We got after them pretty good on defense, but a lot of people did last year as much as they struggled to run the ball."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	12	Tyree Harris (So.)		K.J. Brent (Sr.)	
WR	88	**Jared Crump (Jr.)**	81	Cortez Lewis (Fr.)	
WR	8	Tabari Hines (Fr.)		Steven Claude (Fr.)	
LT	74	Phil Haynes (Fr.)	77	Will Smith (Jr.)	
LG	65	**Josh Harris (Jr.)**	68	Patrick Osterhage (Fr.)	
C	70	Ryan Anderson (Fr.)	55	**A'Lique Terry (So.)**	
RG	63	**Dylan Intemann (Sr.)**	78	Tyler Hayworth (Jr.)	
RT	75	Justin Herron (Fr.)	60	Nick Luedeke (Fr.)	
TE	85	**Cam Serigne (So.)**	41	Devin Pike (So.)	
QB	10	**John Wolford (So.)**	2	Kendall Hinton (Fr.)	
RB	20	Dezmond Wortham (So.)	21	Isaiah Robinson (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	14	**Wendell Dunn (So.)**	53	Duke Ejiofor (So.)
DT	40	**Josh Banks (Jr.)**	93	Zeek Rodney (So.)
NT	36	**Tylor Harris (Sr.)**	95	Sheldon Lewinson (Jr.)
DE	90	Rashawn Shaw (Fr.)	96	Chris Stewart (Fr.)
OLB	30	**Hunter Williams (Sr.)**	28	Teddy Matthews (Jr.)
MLB	8	**Marquel Lee (Jr.)**	39	Jaboree Williams (So.)
OLB	48	**Brandon Chubb (Sr.)**	10	Zack Wary (Fr.)
CB	25	Brad Watson (Jr.)	24	Josh Okonye (So.)
CB		Dionte Austin (Fr.)	27	Bryant Gross-Armiento (So.)
SS	26	Thomas Brown (Jr.)	23	Cameron Glenn (Fr.)
FS	22	**Ryan Janvion (Jr.)**	34	Demetrius Kemp (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Mike Weaver (So.)	KR	18	Johnny Armstrong (Jr.)
P	38	Alex Kinal (Sr.)	PR	88	Jared Crump (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: John Wolford, 367-214-2,037-14, 12 TDs
Rushing: Dezmond Wortham, 84 att., 240 yds., 0 TD
Receiving: Cam Serigne, 54 rec., 531 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Ryan Janvion, 115
Sacks: Josh Banks, 4.0; Marquel Lee, 4.0
Interceptions: Josh Banks, 1; Hunter Williams, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

National Forecast: 52
ACC Coastal Prediction: 6

Head Coach: David Cutcliffe
Record at School: 40-48 (7 years)
Career Record: 84-77 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scottie Montgomery
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Jim Collins, Jim Knowles
Durham, NC • Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 at Tulane
12 NC Central
19 Northwestern
26 Georgia Tech

OCTOBER
3 Boston College
10 at Army
24 at Virginia Tech
31 Miami

NOVEMBER
7 at North Carolina
14 Pittsburgh
21 at Virginia
28 at Wake Forest

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Elon	W	52-13
Sept.	6	at Troy	W	34-17
Sept.	13	Kansas	W	41-3
Sept.	20	Tulane	W	47-13
Sept.	27	at Miami	L	10-22
Oct.	11	at Georgia Tech	W	31-25
Oct.	18	Virginia	W	20-13
Nov.	1	at Pittsburgh	(ot) W	51-48
Nov.	8	at Syracuse	W	27-10
Nov.	15	Virginia Tech	L	16-17
Nov.	20	North Carolina	L	20-45
Nov.	29	Wake Forest	W	41-21
Dec.	27	vs. Arizona State #	L	31-36

#Sun Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ben Humphreys, LB, Santa Ana, CA
2. T.J. Rahming, WR, Powder Springs, GA
3. Reno Rosene, OT, Thousand Oaks, CA
4. Trevon McSwain, DE, Suwanee, GA
5. Keyston Fuller, WR, Griffin, GA
6. Marquies Price, DE, Fort Valley, GA
7. Jeremy McDuffie, CB, Snellville, GA
8. Aaron Young, WR, Murrieta, CA
9. Joe Giles-Harris, LB, Nyack, NY
10. Zach Morris, DE, Ringgold, GA

STAT CORNER

12.9

Percentage of Duke rushes that were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage, third-fewest in FBS. Penetration wasn't allowed.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	32.4 ppg	4	40
Rushing	181.8 ypg	5	46
Passing	216.5 ypg	8	77
Total	398.3 ypg	8	66
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	21.8 ppg	4	24
Rushing	192.9 ypg	13	92
Passing	206.8 ypg	8	33
Total	399.7 ypg	12	67
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+6	+0.46	2	33

OFFENSE For the first time since David Cutcliffe took over at Duke in 2008, there's not a clear-cut succession plan at quarterback. That said, junior Thomas Sirk emerged from spring practice as the leader in the race to replace Anthony Boone. Sirk has plenty of physical tools, but he still has rough edges to his throwing fundamentals. And while he has some reliable targets to throw to in wideout Max McCaffrey and tight end Braxton Deaver, the Blue Devils are still searching for a big-play receiver to replace Jamison Crowder. Duke's hoping a candidate emerges from a collection of young but talented wideouts. Redshirt freshman Chris Taylor showed particular promise in the spring.

Look for Duke to lean more on the running game, where the Devils have power (Jela Duncan), speed (Shaun Wilson) and a mix of both (Shaq Powell).

There are big holes to fill on the offensive line as well, particularly at right guard, where four-year starter Laken Tomlinson moved on to the NFL. Cutcliffe believes the overall talent level of the program continues to rise and that there's now depth across the board. Duke's 2015 offense will put that belief to the test.

DEFENSE Any discussion of Duke's defense must go from back to front, as the strength of the Devils' defense — perhaps the strength of the team, period — is its secondary. All five starters return, including play-making safeties Jeremy Cash and DeVon Edwards.

Duke will look to ball-hawk because it still lacks the bodies up front to physically dominate an opposing offense and force a bunch of three-and-outs. A key will be the health of senior linebacker Kelby Brown, who's been one of the ACC's top defenders — when he's avoided the injury bug. Brown's younger brother Kyler is playing a new stand-up hybrid defensive end position called the "Devil," in which he'll pass rush or drop into coverage as needed.

As for the rest of the front, Carlos Wray is the only returning starter. But for a change, the Blue Devils have some talented wide bodies in the interior defensive line. It's just that those players — such as Edgar Cerenord and Quaven Ferguson — are young and untested.

SPECIALISTS Duke's blueprint involves using the special teams to take some of the pressure off an unproven offense, either by setting Sirk and Co. up with short fields or by doing their own scoring. That seems like a logical approach, given that the Blue Devils have proven All-ACC performers at key spots, including kicker (Ross Martin), punter (Will Monday) and kickoff returner (DeVon Edwards). For now, Duke has opted to go with the steady McCaffrey returning punts, but a talented true freshman could wind up with that job.

FINAL ANALYSIS Duke will play the 2015 season amid signs of its revival. The quaint track at Wallace Wade has finally been removed, seating has been brought closer to the field and a new tower of luxury boxes will be under construction during the season.

As for the on-field product, the Blue Devils can show progress by managing to maintain their current status quo — a winning season and another bowl trip. There are probably too many question marks on offense to contend for the Coastal Division crown. But a manageable non-conference schedule (Northwestern is the biggest challenge) and avoiding Florida State, Clemson and Louisville in conference provides Duke ample opportunity to get to at least six wins and another bowl berth. The key may be Cutcliffe's ability to convince a team that's won 25 games in the past three years that it still has something to prove.


JEREMY CASH

"Personnel-wise I don't recall a lot of standouts, I just know they do a good job in their third-down packages defensively."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	82	Chris Taylor (Fr.)	83	Anthony Nash (Jr.)	
WR	**87**	**Max McCaffrey (Sr.)**	10	Ryan Smith (Jr.)	
WR	4	Johnell Barnes (Jr.)	84	Trevon Lee (Fr.)	
LT	76	Gabe Brandner (So.)	78	Sterling Korona (So.)	
LG	**67**	**Lucas Patrick (Sr.)**	72	Jake Sanders (Fr.)	
C	**62**	**Matt Skura (Sr.)**	50	Austin Davis (So.)	
RG	65	Cody Robinson (Sr.)	79	Tanner Stone (Jr.)	
RT	**71**	**Casey Blaser (Jr.)**	70	Christian Harris (Fr.)	
TE	89	Braxton Deaver (Sr.)	**80**	**David Reeves (Sr.)**	
QB	1	Thomas Sirk (Jr.)	12	Parker Boehme (So.)	
RB	**28**	**Shaquille Powell (Sr.)**	29	Shaun Wilson (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	56	Kyler Brown (Sr.)	48	Deion Williams (Sr.)	
DT	93	A.J. Wolf (Jr.)	97	Quaven Ferguson (Fr.)	
DT	**98**	**Carlos Wray (Sr.)**	99	Mike Ramsay (So.)	
DE	22	Britton Grier (Sr.)	96	Allen Jackson (Jr.)	
LB	59	Kelby Brown (Sr.)	24	Zavier Carmichael (So.)	
LB	40	Dwayne Norman (Sr.)	32	Chris Holmes (So.)	
CB	**14**	**Bryon Fields (Jr.)**	21	Alonzo Saxton (So.)	
CB	**31**	**Breon Borders (Jr.)**	39	Zach Muñiz (So.)	
S	**33**	**Deondre Singleton (Jr.)**	2	Evrett Edwards (So.)	
S	**16**	**Jeremy Cash (Sr.)**	26	Corbin McCarthy (Jr.)	
S	**27**	**DeVon Edwards (Jr.)**	37	Phillip Carter (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Ross Martin (Sr.)	KR	27	DeVon Edwards (Jr.)
P	41	Will Monday (Sr.)	PR	87	Max McCaffrey (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Thomas Sirk, 14-10-67-0, 3 TD
Rushing: Shaquille Powell, 134 att., 618 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Max McCarffrey, 37 rec., 385 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: DeVon Edwards, 133
Sacks: Jeremy Cash, 5.5
Interceptions: Breon Borders, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

National Forecast: 18
ACC Coastal Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Paul Johnson
Record at School: 59-35 (7 years)
Career Record: 166-74 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Paul Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Ted Roof
Atlanta, GA • Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Alcorn State
12 Tulane
19 at Notre Dame
26 at Duke

OCTOBER
3 North Carolina
10 at Clemson
17 Pittsburgh
24 Florida State
31 at Virginia

NOVEMBER
12 Virginia Tech
21 at Miami
28 Georgia

2014 RESULTS (11-3, 6-2)

Aug.	30	Wofford		W	38-19
Sept.	6	at Tulane		W	38-21
Sept.	13	Georgia Southern		W	42-38
Sept.	20	at Virginia Tech		W	27-24
Oct.	4	Miami		W	28-17
Oct.	11	Duke		L	25-31
Oct.	18	at North Carolina		L	43-48
Oct.	25	at Pittsburgh		W	56-28
Nov.	1	Virginia		W	35-10
Nov.	8	at NC State		W	56-23
Nov.	15	Clemson		W	28-6
Nov.	29	at Georgia	(ot)	W	30-24
Dec.	6	vs. Florida State %		L	35-37
Dec.	31	vs. Mississippi State #		W	49-34

%Charlotte #Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Christian Philpott, WR, Tallahassee, FL
2. Anree Saint-Amour, DE, Suwanee, GA
3. Victor Alexander, LB, Jacksonville, FL
4. Christian Campbell, QB, Ponchatoula, LA
5. A.J. Gray, S, Sandersville, GA
6. Mikell Lands-Davis, RB, Douglasville, GA
7. Tyler Cooksey, LB, Suwanee, GA
8. Will Bryan, G, Lavonia, GA
9. Jaylend Ratliffe, ATH, Laurinburg, NC
10. Brant Mitchell, LB, Knoxville, TN

STAT CORNER

5.1

Tech's points per trip inside the 40, eighth in the country. Option play-calling doesn't have to change near the goal line.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	37.9 ppg	1	11
Rushing	342.1 ypg	1	1
Passing	134.4 ypg	13	121
Total	476.5 ypg	1	19
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.7 ppg	10	52
Rushing	167.6 ypg	9	62
Passing	243.7 ypg	13	87
Total	411.3 ypg	13	79
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+11	+0.79	1	14

OFFENSE Georgia Tech's disappointing 2013 season raised questions about the direction of the program heading into last fall. That was particularly true on offense, where Paul Johnson attempted to customize his option playbook for quarterback Vad Lee's throwing ability with mediocre results. With Justin Thomas at the controls in 2014, however, the Yellow Jackets got back to a more traditional option look and became as dangerous on offense by the end of the season as at any time in Johnson's tenure.

With Thomas' speed, elusiveness and intelligence, Georgia Tech should once again be among the nation's most prolific rushing teams. Thomas has a chance to exceed his single-season school record (for quarterbacks) of 1,086 rushing yards and solidify his status as one of the nation's must-watch players.

Georgia Tech loses its running back trio of Synjyn Days, Zach Laskey and Charles Perkins, who accounted for 377 carries and 2,218 yards last season. But most of those concerns will be eased by the depth on the offensive line — four starters and a handful of others with experience return — and the talent that has been groomed to replace them. A-back Broderick Snoddy showed big-play ability in a limited role before breaking his leg last season. However, depth at B-back is a concern after C.J. Leggett, the expected starter, was sidelined with a torn ACL in the spring.

Georgia Tech will also look for young receivers to step up after losing DeAndre Smelter and Darren Waller, who had a knack for making timely catches.

DEFENSE Johnson won't sugarcoat the Jackets' struggles on defense, particularly against the run. "We weren't very good," he says of a unit that gave up 25.7 points and 411.3 yards per game last year. Depth along the defensive front was a major concern, and it will likely remain that way. The good news for the Yellow Jackets is that their first team is solid with senior All-ACC performer Adam Gotsis anchoring the interior and KeShun Freeman coming off a season in which he earned various Freshman All-America honors at end. Johnson is counting on Jabari Hunt-Days, academically ineligible last season, to make a big impact after moving from end to tackle and bulking up to 295 pounds.

Losing All-ACC linebacker Quayshawn Nealy, who contributed 92 tackles, two interceptions and three fumble recoveries last season, leaves a big hole in the middle of the defense. But the Yellow Jackets are hoping for some of the same attributes out of senior Tyler Marcordes, who had 5.5 tackles for a loss and a pair of sacks.

Georgia Tech should be solid in the secondary with senior safety Jamal Golden, who had 61 tackles and four interceptions. Georgia Tech remains stable at cornerback with seniors Chris Milton and D.J. White, who was involved in game-saving takeaways against Virginia Tech and Georgia.

SPECIALISTS Georgia Tech is looking for more consistency out of junior kicker Harrison Butker, who made some high-pressure kicks — such as a 53-yarder at Georgia to send the game to overtime — but also had five misses inside 40 yards. Junior punter Ryan Rodwell returns after an ACC-low 32 attempts last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off an 11-win season capped by a dominant Orange Bowl victory, there are more positive vibes and higher expectations around the program than any time in recent memory. Though Tech will need to re-tool in some areas, having Thomas for two more years means the offense will continue to be potent. Defense is always a question mark for the Yellow Jackets because they don't have overwhelming athletes, but if Ted Roof's unit makes even incremental improvement, another ACC Coastal Division title is well within reach.


JUSTIN THOMAS

"The quarterback is their engine ... and by the end of the year, nobody was stopping (Justin Thomas)."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Ricky Jeune (So.)	86	Antonio Messick (So.)	
WR	84	**Micheal Summers (Jr.)**		Christian Philpott (Fr.)	
LT	53	**Bryan Chamberlain (Sr.)**	79	Eason Fromayan (So.)	
LG	78	**Trey Braun (Sr.)**	76	Nick Brigham (Jr.)	
C	58	**Freddie Burden (Jr.)**	50	Andrew Marshall (So.)	
RG	71	Shamire Devine (So.)	73	Gary Brown (Fr.)	
RT	78	**Errin Joe (Sr.)**	70	Will Bryan (Fr.)	
QB	5	**Justin Thomas (Jr.)**	18	Tim Byerly (Sr.)	
AB	22	Broderick Snoddy (Sr.)	46	J.J. Green (Jr.)	
AB	2	Dennis Andrews (Jr.)	49	Clinton Lynch (Fr.)	
BB	21	Quaide Weimerskirch (Fr.)		Patrick Skov (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	91	Patrick Gamble (Jr.)	41	Rod Rook-Chungong (Jr.)	
DT	96	**Adam Gotsis (Sr.)**	92	Francis Kallon (Jr.)	
DT	32	Jabari Hunt-Days (Sr.)	54	Kyle Cerge-Henderson (Fr.)	
DE	42	**KeShun Freeman (So.)**	93	Antonio Simmons (So.)	
LB	35	Tyler Marcordes (Sr.)	2	Anthony Harrell (Sr.)	
LB	40	**P.J. Davis (Jr.)**	33	Beau Hankins (Jr.)	
CB	28	**D.J. White (Sr.)**	8	Step Durham (So.)	
CB	6	**Chris Milton (Sr.)**	27	Lynn Griffin (Jr.)	
SS	23	Domonique Noble (Sr.)	14	Corey Griffin (So.)	
FS	4	**Jamal Golden (Sr.)**	20	Lawrence Austin (So.)	
NB	12	**Demond Smith (Sr.)**	17	Lance Austin (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	87	Harrison Butker (Jr.)	KR	4	Jamal Golden (Sr.)
P	85	Ryan Rodwell (Jr.)	PR	4	Jamal Golden (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Thomas, 187-96-1,719-6, 18 TD
Rushing: Justin Thomas, 190 att., 1,086 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Micheal Summers, 7 rec., 45 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: P.J. Davis, 119
Sacks: KeShun Freeman, 4.5
Interceptions: D.J. White, 4; Jamal Golden, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tami Chappell

MIAMI HURRICANES

National Forecast: 43
ACC Coastal Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Al Golden
Record at School: 28-22 (4 years)
Career Record: 55-56 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: James Coley
Defensive Coordinator: Mark D'Onofrio
Coral Gables, FL • Sun Life Stadium (55,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Bethune-Cookman
11 at Florida Atlantic
19 Nebraska

OCTOBER
1 at Cincinnati
10 at Florida State
17 Virginia Tech
24 Clemson
31 at Duke

NOVEMBER
7 Virginia
14 at North Carolina
21 Georgia Tech
27 at Pittsburgh

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 3-5)

Sept.	1	at Louisville	L	13-31
Sept.	6	Florida A&M	W	41-7
Sept.	13	Arkansas State	W	41-20
Sept.	20	at Nebraska	L	31-41
Sept.	27	Duke	W	22-10
Oct.	4	Georgia Tech	L	17-28
Oct.	11	Cincinnati	W	55-34
Oct.	23	at Virginia Tech	W	30-6
Nov.	1	North Carolina	W	47-20
Nov.	15	Florida State	L	26-30
Nov.	22	at Virginia	L	13-30
Nov.	29	Pittsburgh	L	23-35
Dec.	27	vs. South Carolina #	L	21-24

#Independence Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Mark Walton, RB, Miami, FL
2. Jaquan Johnson, S, Miami, FL
3. Bar Milo, T, West Hills, CA
4. Tyree St. Louis, G, Bradenton, Fla.
5. Jerome Washington, TE, Princeton Junction, NJ*
6. Lawrence Cager, WR, Towson, MD
7. Kendrick Norton, OG, Jacksonville, FL
8. Charles Perry, LB, West Palm Beach, FL
9. Scott Patchan, DE, Bradenton, FL
10. Jahair Jones, T, Brooklyn, NY*

*junior college transfer

Following losses to Florida State the last two seasons, Miami is 2-6; four of the six losses have come by at least 17 points.

STAT CORNER
17

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	29.2 ppg	9	59
Rushing	180.4 ypg	6	48
Passing	249.9 ypg	5	47
Total	430.3 ypg	4	44
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.3 ppg	7	36
Rushing	137.1 ypg	5	30
Passing	192.5 ypg	3	17
Total	329.6 ypg	4	14
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-1	-0.08	9	66

OFFENSE No Duke Johnson, no Phillip Dorsett, no Ereck Flowers … but at least the Hurricanes have Brad Kaaya. The quarterback-starved Canes thanked their lucky stars for the 6'4", 209-pound Southern California native who captured the ACC Rookie of the Year award and set UM true freshman records for passing yards and touchdowns. Now a sophomore, Kaaya's the marquee player for an offense that loses a host of NFL-caliber talent — most notably Johnson, the program's all-time leading rusher. Kaaya must also do without blazing-fast receiver Dorsett, athletic tight end Clive Walford and three offensive line starters, including Flowers, the elite left tackle.

The Canes do have two promising backs in 5'9", 195-pound sophomore Joseph Yearby (509 yards and a touchdown as Johnson's backup in 2014) and junior Gus Edwards, who has surprising burst for a 6'2", 230-pound power runner. They have a deep group of receivers, including Stacy Coley, who slumped last year but had a Freshman All-America season in 2013.

On the unfortunate side of things, Kaaya does not have a proven cast of offensive lineman. The only full-time starter returning is right guard Danny Isidora, though youngsters Kc McDermott, Trevor Darling and Nick Linder saw meaningful snaps last year. Kaaya is also not very mobile, which is why the Canes might give a dual-threat backup Malik Rosier a look in certain packages.

DEFENSE The Hurricanes were 14th nationally in total defense last season, but that was mostly a mirage. UM allowed 300-plus rushing yards to Nebraska and Georgia Tech and couldn't get the stops needed to put away Florida State or South Carolina.

It's not a sure bet the unit will improve after losing stalwart middle linebacker Denzel Perryman and reliable defensive linemen Anthony Chickillo and Olsen Pierre. However, Miami's talented secondary could be coming into its own. Senior safety Deon Bush (five forced fumbles) and junior corners Corn Elder and Artie Burns look like playmakers, and junior weak-side linebacker Jermaine Grace finished second on the team in tackles (60, 6.5 for a loss) despite playing second-string minutes. Defensive ends Chad Thomas and Al-Quadin Muhammad look like breakout players.

As a whole, the defensive line is unproven and largely underwhelming. There's also little depth among the linebackers, which forced coach Al Golden to move pass-rusher Tyriq McCord to strong-side linebacker.

SPECIALISTS Though first-year punter Justin Vogel was reliable, true freshman kicker Michael Badgley was up-and-down (14-of-18 field goals, long of 48 yards, four missed extra points). The real problem area was the return game. The Canes will also have to be better in covering kicks; they were last in the ACC in return yardage allowed.

FINAL ANALYSIS Few coaches in America occupy a hotter seat than Golden, who is 28–22 entering his fifth season. The Hurricanes lost four straight to finish 6–7 — UM's third losing season in the last 35 years. He recruited well through a lengthy NCAA investigation, but fans howl that the program keeps sailing further and further from the glory years.

This year's team is young, after losing a host of NFL-caliber talent, and has to battle a brutal October stretch that includes Florida State (in Tallahassee) and Clemson. The Canes haven't played for the ACC title since joining the conference in 2004, and it doesn't look like this will be the year.

The 'U' stands for 'Underwhelming' now, and if Golden doesn't produce results this season, he might be looking for work elsewhere.


BRAD KAAYA

Tom DiPace

"I'm not exaggerating: Every play they run could be a house call because they've got so many explosive skill players."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	11	Rashawn Scott (Sr.)	3	Stacy Coley (Jr.)	
WR	6	Herb Waters (Sr.)	**9**	**Malcolm Lewis (Jr.)**	
LT	52	Kc McDermott (So.)	77	Jahair Jones (Fr.)	
LG	64	Hunter Wells (Sr.)		Tyree St. Louis (Fr.)	
C	68	Nick Linder (So.)	67	Alex Gall (Jr.)	
RG	**63**	**Danny Isidora (Jr.)**	55	Joe Brown (Fr.)	
RT	76	Taylor Gadbois (Jr.)	73	Trevor Darling (So.)	
TE	5	Standish Dobard (Jr.)	87	Jerome Washington (Fr.)	
HB	23	Chris Herndon (So.)	86	David Njoku (Fr.)	
QB	**15**	**Brad Kaaya (So.)**	12	Malik Rosier (Fr.)	
RB	2	Joseph Yearby (So.)	7	Gus Edwards (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

RUSH	8	Al-Quadin Muhammad (So.)	33	Trent Harris (So.)	
DT	47	Ufomba Kamalu (Sr.)	95	Anthony Moten (So.)	
DT	11	Michael Wyche (Sr.)	**93**	**Calvin Heurtelou (Sr.)**	
DE	9	Chad Thomas (So.)	99	Jelani Hamilton (Jr.)	
SLB	**17**	**Tyriq McCord (Sr.)**	58	Darrion Owens (So.)	
MLB	**56**	**Raphael Kirby (Sr.)**	51	Juwon Young (So.)	
WLB	5	Jermaine Grace (Jr.)	13	Marques Gayot (So.)	
CB	29	Corn Elder (Jr.)	3	Tracy Howard (Sr.)	
CB	**1**	**Artie Burns (Jr.)**	27	Ryan Mayes (Fr.)	
S	**2**	**Deon Bush (Sr.)**	25	Dallas Crawford (Sr.)	
S	6	Jamal Carter (Jr.)	4	Jaquan Johnson (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Michael Badgley (So.)	KR	3	Stacy Coley (Jr.)
P	16	Justin Vogel (Jr.)	PR	8	Braxton Berrios (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brad Kaaya, 378-221-3,198-12, 26 TDs
Rushing: Joe Yearby, 86 att., 509 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Malcolm Lewis, 25 rec., 248 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Jermaine Grace, 60
Sacks: Ufomba Kamalu, 3.5
Interceptions: Deon Bush, 2; Raphael Kirby, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

National Forecast: 42
ACC Coastal Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Larry Fedora
Record at School: 21-17 (3 years)
Career Record: 55-36 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Seth Littrell
Defensive Coordinator: Gene Chizik
Chapel Hill, NC
Kenan Memorial Stadium (63,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 vs. South Carolina #
12 North Carolina A&T
19 Illinois
26 Delaware

OCTOBER
3 at Georgia Tech
17 Wake Forest
24 Virginia
29 at Pittsburgh

NOVEMBER
7 Duke
14 Miami
21 at Virginia Tech
28 at NC State

#Charlotte, NC

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Liberty	W	56-29
Sept.	6	San Diego State	W	31-27
Sept.	20	at East Carolina	L	41-70
Sept.	27	at Clemson	L	35-50
Oct.	4	Virginia Tech	L	17-34
Oct.	11	at Notre Dame	L	43-50
Oct.	18	Georgia Tech	W	48-43
Oct.	25	at Virginia	W	28-27
Nov.	1	at Miami	L	20-47
Nov.	15	Pittsburgh	W	40-35
Nov.	20	at Duke	W	45-20
Nov.	29	NC State	L	7-35
Dec.	26	vs. Rutgers #	L	21-40

#Quick Lane Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jalen Dalton, DE, Clemmons, NC
2. Tommy Hatton, C, Montvale, NJ
3. William Sweet, OT, Jacksonville, FL
4. Ty'Son Williams, RB, Sumter, SC
5. Anthony Ratliff-Williams, QB, Matthews, NC
6. Mike Hughes, CB, New Bern, NC
7. Mason Veal, OT, Charlotte, NC
8. Johnathan Sutton, LB, Swansea, SC
9. Juval Mollette, WR, Randleman, NC
10. Aaron Crawford, DT, Ashburn, VA

STAT CORNER

5.32

The UNC defense's points allowed per trip inside the 40, worst in the country. The Heels had a "bend, then break" defense.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	33.2 ppg	3	36
Rushing	151.4 ypg	7	81
Passing	278.4 ypg	2	27
Total	429.8 ypg	5	45
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	39.0 ppg	14	116
Rushing	240.5 ypg	14	117
Passing	257.4 ypg	14	101
Total	497.8 ypg	14	117
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
0	0.00	8	59

OFFENSE North Carolina brings back 10 offensive starters and several key reserves from 2014, resulting in some unusual continuity. The Tar Heels return 100 percent of their rushing yards, 99.2 percent of their passing yards and 83.7 percent of their receiving yards from last season.

Quarterback Marquise Williams is the trigger man after setting a single-season school record for total offense. He is a dual threat who led the team in rushing last season, but coaches want to ease his burden in the run game so that he takes fewer hits in 2015.

The success of that plan depends on the play of UNC's talented running backs and the improvement of a developing offensive line. The Tar Heels have running backs with a variety of skills in T.J. Logan (all-around ability), Elijah Hood (power), and Romar Morris (speed). The offensive line is headlined by senior right guard Landon Turner, who is joined by fellow third-year starter Jon Heck at right tackle. Sophomore Bentley Spain has ascended to the starting position at left tackle, where he figures to become a fixture.

In the passing game, UNC's collection of receivers is impressive. Quinshad Davis, Mack Hollins, and Bug Howard all stand at least 6'4" and make for inviting targets, while 5'10" Ryan Switzer is a big-play threat on short and long passes alike.

DEFENSE Head coach Larry Fedora hired former Auburn coach Gene Chizik to fix a defense that finished last in the conference in every major category and set league records for points and yards allowed. Chizik is installing a base 4-3 to take the place of the 4-2-5 scheme that the Tar Heels used over the last three seasons, and players have noted that it is easier to understand and execute.

The defensive line lacks a proven stud, but it features some intriguing young prospects in sophomores Nazair Jones and Dajaun Drennon and freshmen Jeremiah Clarke and Jalen Dalton. Senior middle linebacker Jeff Schoettmer emerged during the spring as the leader of the defense, and he is coming off a season in which he finished second on the team in tackles. UNC returns seven of its top eight defensive backs from a year ago, including a potential standout in cornerback Brian Walker. But the Tar Heels need improvement from everyone in the secondary after allowing an ACC-record 31 touchdown passes last season.

SPECIALISTS After struggling on punt returns last season, Switzer is looking to recapture the form he showed in 2013 when he led the nation in punt return average and tied an NCAA record with five punt returns for touchdowns. UNC has far bigger worries on special teams. Kickoff specialist Nick Weiler and redshirt freshman Freeman Jones are competing for the placekicking job after the Tar Heels missed all seven of their field-goal tries from beyond 30 yards a year ago. UNC also is breaking in a new punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS UNC's season depends heavily upon two factors: the health of Williams, and how much the defense can improve on last season's disastrous results. The Tar Heels don't look like a championship contender, but they have a couple of factors in their favor. One, they play in the ACC's Coastal Division, so they don't have to worry about league heavyweights Florida State and Clemson in the standings. And two, they don't have to worry about Florida State and Clemson at all because they don't play them (or Louisville, for that matter) this season. A winning season and another bowl trip are within reach, and any result substantially better than that could make Chizik an appealing candidate for a head coaching job with another program.



MARQUISE WILLIAMS

Tom Lynn

"They have great skilled athletes all over the field, and the offensive system they run fits their personnel."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	14	**Quinshad Davis (Sr.)**	35	Damien Washington (Sr.)	
WR	3	**Ryan Switzer (Jr.)**	7	Austin Proehl (So.)	
WR	13	**Mack Hollins (Jr.)**	84	Bug Howard (Jr.)	
LT	75	Bentley Spain (So.)	77	**John Ferranto (Jr.)**	
LG	70	**Caleb Peterson (Jr.)**	65	Jared Cohen (So.)	
C	68	**Lucas Crowley (Jr.)**	73	Brad Henson (So.)	
RG	78	**Landon Turner (Sr.)**	74	Will Dancy (Sr.)	
RT	71	**Jon Heck (Jr.)**	51	William Sweet (Fr.)	
TE	81	Kendrick Singleton (Sr.)	82	Brandon Fritts (Fr.)	
QB	12	**Marquise Williams (Sr.)**	10	Mitch Trubisky (So.)	
RB	8	**T.J. Logan (Jr.)**	34	Elijah Hood (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	43	Jessie Rogers (Sr.)	45	Mikey Bart (Jr.)	
DT	90	Nazair Jones (So.)	93	Robert Dinkins (Fr.)	
DT	98	**Justin Thomason (Sr.)**	95	Tyler Powell (So.)	
DE	17	**Dajaun Drennon (So.)**	44	Junior Gnonkonde (Jr.)	
SLB	42	Shakeel Rashad (Sr.)	20	Tyrell Tomlin (So.)	
MLB	10	**Jeff Schoettmer (Sr.)**	56	Andre Smith (Fr.)	
WLB	32	Joe Jackson (Jr.)	23	Cayson Collins (So.)	
CB	5	**Brian Walker (Jr.)**	6	M.J. Stewart (So.)	
CB	11	Malik Simmons (Sr.)	2	**Des Lawrence (Jr.)**	
S	3	Sam Smiley (Sr.)	21	J.K. Britt (Fr.)	
S	15	Donnie Miles (So.)	26	**Dominquie Green (Jr.)**	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Freeman Jones (Fr.)	KR	8	T.J. Logan (Jr.)
P	90	Corbin Daly (Fr.)	PR	3	Ryan Switzer (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Marquise Williams, 428-270-3,068-9, 21 TDs
Rushing: Marquise Williams, 193 att., 788 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Ryan Switzer, 61 rec., 757 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Jeff Schoettmer, 74
Sacks: Jessie Rogers, 5.5
Interceptions: Brian Walker, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

PITT PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

National Forecast: 41
ACC Coastal Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Pat Narduzzi
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Jim Chaney
Defensive Coordinator: Josh Conklin
Pittsburgh, PA • Heinz Field (65,050)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Youngstown State
12 at Akron
19 at Iowa

OCTOBER
3 at Virginia Tech
10 Virginia
17 at Georgia Tech
24 at Syracuse
29 North Carolina

NOVEMBER
7 Notre Dame
14 at Duke
21 Louisville
27 Miami

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Delaware		W	62-0
Sept.	5	at Boston College		W	30-20
Sept.	13	at FIU		W	42-25
Sept.	20	Iowa		L	20-24
Sept.	27	Akron		L	10-21
Oct.	4	at Virginia		L	19-24
Oct.	16	Virginia Tech		W	21-16
Oct.	25	Georgia Tech		L	28-56
Nov.	1	Duke	(ot)	L	48-51
Nov.	15	at North Carolina		L	35-40
Nov.	22	Syracuse		W	30-7
Nov.	29	at Miami		W	35-23
Jan.	2	vs. Houston #		L	34-35

#Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Whitehead, DB, Aliquippa, PA
2. Darrin Hall, RB, Youngstown, OH
3. Anthony McKee, LB, Columbus, OH
4. Jay Stocker, S, Coatesville, PA
5. Alex Paulina, OL, Canonsburg, PA
6. Quadree Henderson, WR, Wilmington, DE
7. Saleem Brightwell, LB, Palisades Park, NJ
8. Malik Henderson, DB, Plantation, FL
9. Tony Pilato, OL, Greensburg, PA
10. Tre Tipton, WR, Spring Church, PA

Pitt's field position margin in 2014, seventh in the country. Efficient rushing set the Panthers up to succeed more than they did.

STAT CORNER
+6.1

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	31.8 ppg	5	43
Rushing	249.5 ypg	3	15
Passing	185.9 ypg	10	102
Total	435.4 ypg	3	40
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	26.3 ppg	11	58
Rushing	160.8 ypg	8	55
Passing	198.9 ypg	4	24
Total	359.8 ypg	8	33
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-5	-0.38	13	95

OFFENSE As top-tier tandems go, James Conner and Tyler Boyd have few equals. Conner not only beat out defending Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston for ACC Player of the Year honors, but he was also named a first-team All-American after rushing for 1,765 yards (5.9 per carry) and an ACC-record 26 touchdowns. Boyd, meantime, became the first player in conference history to compile 1,000 receiving yards in both his freshman and sophomore seasons. The first-team All-ACC selection had 78 receptions for 1,261 yards (16.2 per catch). Conner is a legit Heisman candidate, Boyd a legit Biletnikoff Award contender.

The question is: Can the two juniors provide enough firepower to an offense that features question marks at quarterback and on the offensive line? And can they help the program adjust to its fifth head coach in seven years? Former Michigan State defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi replaced Paul Chryst, who left for his alma mater, Wisconsin. "We're here to lead this team," Conner says. "We're here to try to win a championship."

Junior quarterback Chad Voytik is the X-factor. After a sluggish first half of last season, Voytik experienced a profound turnaround. He averaged nearly 200 yards and completed 64.5 percent of his passes as Pittsburgh averaged 35 points in its final six games. If he continues to evolve, the offense could flourish under new coordinator Jim Chaney, who mentored Drew Brees at Purdue and revitalized Arkansas' offense last season.

DEFENSE First-year coordinator Josh Conklin was known for his attacking style last season at Florida International. "We want our defenses to have an opportunistic mentality," Narduzzi says. "Josh will help us achieve that."

Unlike the offense, the defense lacks star power. It lost its top two tacklers from last season and faces uncertainty across the board. Third-year starting middle linebacker Matt Galambos must pilot the unit during this transition phase.

An intriguing prospect is outside linebacker Bam Bradley, whose name resembles his hitting style. He had 36 tackles, four tackles for a loss, two sacks and an interception. On the opposite side, senior Nicholas Grigsby (three sacks) will be relied upon to use his speed and explosiveness to induce more turnovers and big plays.

Fourth-year starter Lafayette Pitts provides experience in the secondary, and safety Reggie Mitchell returns after leading the team with seven pass breakups. At defensive end, sophomore Rori Blair (team-high five sacks) could be a linchpin for this newfangled attack-first unit.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Chris Blewitt returns after converting 16-of-21 field goals (76 percent). Sophomore punter Ryan Winslow averaged 40.1 yards on 50 punts. Boyd ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the ACC in kickoff and punt returns, respectively.

FINAL ANALYSIS Seven years. Five coaches. Zero continuity. That is the storyline for Pittsburgh, which hired Narduzzi in December. The situation is confounding and maddening to a fan base that's been witness to a program mired in mediocrity. Whether Narduzzi can provide stability is unclear, but the former Michigan State defensive coordinator offers a snappy résumé as a career assistant. Under Narduzzi, Michigan State was the only school in the FBS to rank in the top 10 in total and rushing defense the past four seasons. He inherits a Panthers team that was the youngest in the nation with 81 underclassmen (53 freshmen and 28 sophomores). Fifteen starters return.

Pittsburgh features game-changers in Conner and Boyd, but a transition to a new coaching staff — again — and uncertainty at quarterback and on defense will surely create challenges.


JAMES CONNER

Fred Vuich

"James Conner is a load, but they gave him a ton of carries early in the season. He might have wore down a little bit."
— An ACC opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	23	**Tyler Boyd (Jr.)**	80	Zach Challingsworth (So.)	
WR	19	Dontez Ford (Jr.)	85	Jester Weah (So.)	
LT	69	**Adam Bisnowaty (Jr.)**	62	John Guy (Jr.)	
LG	53	**Dorian Johnson (Jr.)**	72	Carson Baker (So.)	
C	63	**Alex Officer (So.)**	71	Gabe Roberts (Jr.)	
RG	78	Alex Bookser (Fr.)	57	Artie Rowell (Sr.)	
RT	75	Jaryd Jones-Smith (So.)	60	Aaron Reese (So.)	
TE	86	**J.P. Holtz (Sr.)**	31	**Jaymar Parrish (Jr.)**	
QB	16	**Chad Voytik (Jr.)**	7	Adam Bertke (Fr.)	
FB	35	George Aston (Fr.)	40	Colton Lively (So.)	
TB	24	**James Conner (Jr.)**	5	Chris James (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	92	Rori Blair (So.)	87	Reggie Green (So.)
DT	91	**Darryl Render (Sr.)**	94	Jeremiah Taleni (So.)
DT	95	**K.K. Mosley-Smith (Sr.)**	54	Tyrique Jarrett (Jr.)
DE	5	Ejuan Price (Sr.)	52	**Shakir Soto (Jr.)**
STAR	3	Nicholas Grigsby (Sr.)	22	Jameel Poteat (Sr.)
MLB	47	**Matt Galambos (Jr.)**	58	Quintin Wirginis (So.)
MONEY	4	Bam Bradley (Jr.)	30	Mike Caprara (Jr.)
CB	6	**Lafayette Pitts (Sr.)**	22	Dennis Briggs (Fr.)
CB	14	Avonte Maddox (So.)	38	Ryan Lewis (Jr.)
BS	26	Jevonte Pitts (Jr.)	25	Pat Amara (So.)
FS	15	**Reggie Mitchell (Jr.)**	2	**Terrish Webb (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Chris Blewitt (Jr.)	KR	23	Tyler Boyd (Jr.)
P	18	Ryan Winslow (So.)	PR	23	Tyler Boyd (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chad Voytik, 287-176-2,233-7, 16 TDs
Rushing: James Conner, 298 att., 1,765 yds., 26 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Boyd, 78 rec., 1,261 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Matt Galambos, 72
Sacks: Rori Blair, 5.0
Interceptions: Lafayette Pitts, 2; Terrish Webb, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

National Forecast: 61
ACC Coastal Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Mike London
Record at School: 23-38 (5 years)
Career Record: 47-43 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Fairchild
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Tenuta
Charlottesville, VA • Scott Stadium (61,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	at UCLA
12	Notre Dame
19	William & Mary
25	Boise State
OCTOBER	
10	at Pittsburgh
17	Syracuse
24	at North Carolina
31	Georgia Tech
NOVEMBER	
7	at Miami
14	at Louisville
21	Duke
28	Virginia Tech

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug. 30	UCLA	L	20-28
Sept. 6	Richmond	W	45-13
Sept.13	Louisville	W	23-21
Sept.20	at BYU	L	33-41
Sept.27	Kent State	W	45-13
Oct. 4	Pittsburgh	W	24-19
Oct. 18	at Duke	L	13-20
Oct. 25	North Carolina	L	27-28
Nov. 1	at Georgia Tech	L	10-35
Nov. 8	at Florida State	L	20-34
Nov. 22	Miami	W	30-13
Nov. 28	at Virginia Tech	L	20-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jahvoni Simmons, LB, Virginia Beach, VA
2. C.J. Stalker, LB, West Chester, OH
3. Nick Johns, QB, Leesburg, VA
4. Juan Thornhill, DB, Altavista, VA
5. Dominic Sheppard, LB, Miami, FL
6. David Eldridge, WR, Nokesville, VA
7. Olamide Zaccheaus, ATH, Philadelphia, PA
8. James Trucilla, DT, Erie, PA
9. T.J. Griffin, DB, Virginia Beach, VA
10. Grant Polk, OL, Punta Gorda, FL

Virginia lost five games by one possession in 2014; the Hoos rebounded from 2–10 to 5–7, but it could have been even better.

STAT CORNER

5

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	11	85
Rushing	137.8 ypg	13	97
Passing	236.4 ypg	6	57
Total	353.2 ypg	7	87
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.1 ppg	6	32
Rushing	120.7 ypg	4	18
Passing	232.5 ypg	12	72
Total	374.2 ypg	11	28
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+5	+0.42	4	36

OFFENSE Virginia has settled on an identity and style of play. Now, if only the Cavaliers could settle on a quarterback. Greyson Lambert and Matt Johns were competing through the spring. Lambert started nine games a year ago but wasn't able to separate himself from Johns, who started three games when Lambert was hurt and played in all 12. At 6'5", both juniors are tall-in-the-saddle types seemingly suited for a pro-style offense that seeks to emphasize the running game. Each needs to be more accurate and less mistake-prone than a year ago, when they combined for 18 touchdowns and 16 interceptions.

Virginia ranked 97th nationally in rushing offense in 2014. Hopes of being a power-running team rest on an offensive line that was banged up last year and did a good job in pass protection but struggled to open holes on the ground. The upside is that 10 players with game experience are back, including seven who have been starters at some point.

The graduation of tailback Kevin Parks creates an opportunity for former five-star recruit Taquan "Smoke" Mizzell, a potentially dynamic player who has shown only flashes of that talent in two seasons. If the Cavaliers can establish the running game, they feel good about their chances of taking shots down field, with an experienced corps of receivers that includes senior Canaan Severin, and North Carolina transfer T.J. Thorpe.

DEFENSE A big chunk of Virginia's pass rush left early for the NFL. Junior defensive end Eli Harold and sophomore linebacker Max Valles, who combined for 16 sacks and 27 tackles for a loss, are both gone, as is senior linebacker Henry Coley and his eight sacks.

Given those losses, it's difficult to envision the Cavaliers being as disruptive again, even in a scheme designed to create havoc with blitzes and stunts.

The strength of the unit should be on the back end, where safety Quin Blanding, a Freshman All-American, should only get better, and where the return of cornerback Demetrious Nicholson from a turf toe injury adds to an already deep secondary.

Up front, tackle David Dean anchors a group that ranked 18th nationally against the run. Though not the speed rusher that Harold was, end Mike Moore had three sacks and will be counted on to bring heat from the edge. After an injury-plagued freshman year, former five-star recruit Andrew Brown is being counted on for a breakout season at tackle.

The linebacking corps must replace three starters, meaning the heart of the defense will be young. Expect a true freshman or two on the two-deep.

SPECIALISTS Given Virginia's inability to finish in the red zone, kicker Ian Frye was busy last year, hitting 22-of-27 field-goal attempts. Punter Alec Vozenilek was a valuable weapon and will be missed. Thorpe, the North Carolina transfer, is a former All-ACC returner who could bring some needed sizzle to the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coach Mike London is no stranger to the hot seat. He's been under a cloud for three seasons. Last year's improvement from 2–10 to 5–7 was encouraging to a point. But a second-half fade after a 4–2 start raised old questions about the team's inability to finish close games under London.

Last year's progress earned London a last chance. Nothing short of a bowl game appearance is likely to keep him around. With the usual questions on offense and big shoes to fill on defense — as well as another brutal non-conference schedule — Virginia has a lot to overcome for that to happen. Too much, probably.



QUIN BLANDING

"Instability at quarterback has been their No. 1 issue, no question. Very little continuity from year to year."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	**Canaan Severin (Sr.)**	85	Keeon Johnson (Jr.)	
WR	8	T.J. Thorpe (Sr.)	14	Andre Levrone (So.)	
LT	76	**Michael Mooney (Jr.)**	75	Sadiq Olanrewaju (Jr.)	
LG	65	**Ross Burbank (Sr.)**	63	Ryan Doull (Jr.)	
C	68	Eric Tetlow (So.)	50	Jackson Matteo (Jr.)	
RG	62	Sean Karl (Jr.)	71	Jack McDonald (So.)	
RT	72	**Eric Smith (Jr.)**	64	Jay Whitmire (Sr.)	
TE	89	Rob Burns (Sr.)	45	Evan Butts (Fr.)	
QB	15	Matt Johns (Jr.)	11	**Greyson Lambert (Jr.)**	
FB	41	Connor Wingo-Reeves (Jr.)	47	Vincent Croce (Sr.)	
RB	4	Taquan Mizzell (Jr.)	22	Daniel Hamm (So.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	34	**Kwontie Moore (Sr.)**	43	Trent Corney (Sr.)
DT	55	**David Dean (Sr.)**	56	Andre Miles-Redmond (Jr.)
DT	93	Donte Wilkins (Jr.)	9	Andrew Brown (So.)
DE	32	Mike Moore (Sr.)	98	Jordan Jackson (Fr.)
OLB	51	Zach Bradshaw (Jr.)	59	Mark Hall (Jr.)
MLB	53	Micah Kiser (So.)	47	Tucker Gamble (Fr.)
OLB	15	C.J. Stalker (Fr.)		Jahvoni Simmons (Fr.)
CB	1	Demetrious Nicholson (Sr.)	5	Tim Harris (Jr.)
CB	26	**Maurice Canady (Sr.)**	11	Divante Walker (Jr.)
S	38	Kelvin Rainey (Jr.)	16	Mason Thomas (Sr.)
S	3	**Quin Blanding (So.)**	28	Wilfred Wahee (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Ian Frye (Sr.)	KR	8	T.J. Thorpe (Sr.)
P	38	Nicholas Conte (Jr.)	PR	8	T.J. Thorpe (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Greyson Lambert, 261-154-1,632-11, 10 TDs
Rushing: Taquan Mizzell, 64 att., 280 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Canaan Severin, 42 rec., 578 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Quin Blanding, 123
Sacks: Mike Moore, 3.0
Interceptions: Quin Blanding, 3; Maurice Canady, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

National Forecast: 35
ACC Coastal Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Frank Beamer
Record at School: 231-115-2 (28 years)
Career Record: 273-138-4 (34 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scot Loeffler
Defensive Coordinator: Bud Foster
Blacksburg, VA
Lane Stadium (65,632)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
7 Ohio State
12 Furman
19 at Purdue
26 at East Carolina

OCTOBER
3 Pittsburgh
9 NC State
17 at Miami
24 Duke
31 at Boston College

NOVEMBER
12 at Georgia Tech
21 North Carolina
28 at Virginia

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug.	30	William & Mary	W	34-9
Sept.	6	at Ohio State	W	35-21
Sept.	13	East Carolina	L	21-28
Sept.	20	Georgia Tech	L	24-27
Sept.	27	Western Michigan	W	35-17
Oct.	4	at North Carolina	W	34-17
Oct.	16	at Pittsburgh	L	16-21
Oct.	23	Miami	L	6-30
Nov.	1	Boston College	L	31-33
Nov.	15	at Duke	W	17-16
Nov.	22	at Wake Forest (2ot)	L	3-6
Nov.	28	Virginia	W	24-20
Dec.	27	vs. Cincinnati #	W	33-17

#Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tim Settle, DT, Manassas, VA
2. Dwayne Lawson, QB, Tampa, FL
3. Austin Clark, OT, Lexington, VA
4. Yosuah Nijman, OT, Maplewood, NJ
5. Xavier Burke, TE, Lawrenceville, VA
6. Mook Reynolds, CB, Greensboro, NC
7. Trevon Hill, DE, Virginia Beach, VA
8. Tremaine Edmunds, LB, Danville, VA
9. Darius Fullwood, DE, College Park, MD
10. Deshawn McClease, RB, Chesapeake, VA

STAT CORNER

-4.1

The Hokies' field position margin in 2014, 116th in the country. Iffy returns and offensive inefficiency dug VT plenty of holes.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	24.1 ppg	12	93
Rushing	147.9 ypg	8	86
Passing	217.4 ypg	7	75
Total	365.3 ypg	12	96
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	20.2 ppg	2	14
Rushing	144.8 ypg	7	39
Passing	199.0 ypg	5	25
Total	343.8 ypg	5	21
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-4	-0.31	12	89

OFFENSE It's now-or-never for the Hokies under third-year offensive coordinator Scot Loeffler, who spent Year 1 introducing his system and Year 2 dealing with youth and injuries. All the major players are back, including quarterback Michael Brewer, a Texas Tech transfer whose good moments last year were often negated by bad ones. He threw for 18 touchdowns and 2,692 yards but also 15 interceptions, 11 coming in the first six games.

He's more experienced now, as are his offensive weapons. Receivers Isaiah Ford and Cam Phillips combined for 96 catches, 1,207 yards and nine touchdowns as freshmen, and Bucky Hodges shattered all the school's tight end records with 45 catches, 526 yards and seven touchdowns as a redshirt freshman. Just who will carry the ball remains a question, with Shai McKenzie and Marshawn Williams coming off ACL injuries (and McKenzie some legal issues). But 2013 leading rusher Trey Edmunds is healthy again, and J.C. Coleman showed he could carry the load after rushing for 468 yards in the final four games last year.

As always, the offensive line is a question, but coaches were encouraged by the starting five in the spring, particularly left guard Wyatt Teller, a bruiser who entered the starting lineup midway through last year and earned O-line MVP honors. If the line jells, the stable of young playmakers makes a jump, and Brewer can cut down his turnovers, the Hokies have a chance to churn out a decent offense for the first time in years.

DEFENSE The strength of Bud Foster's group lies in the trenches and on the back end. The Hokies have four starting defensive linemen who have earned All-ACC recognition in their careers. Tackle Luther Maddy returns from a medical redshirt, paired with undersized but quick Corey Marshall on the interior. The ends are even more disruptive. Dadi Nicolas and Ken Ekanem combined for 18.5 sacks and 33 tackles for a loss last year, the most productive D-line tandem in the ACC.

The secondary is in flux because of spring absences, but cornerback Kendall Fuller is a stud, an All-American who might be the best the program has produced. The big domino is cornerback Brandon Facyson, who missed last year with a stress fracture in his leg, which he reinjured at practice in December. If he returns to form, it allows Tech to move the versatile Chuck Clark to his more natural position at safety. This group gave up a ton of big plays last year, but it's as talented as ever.

The biggest question mark is at linebacker, where Deon Clarke returns but Andrew Motuapuaka is a first-year starter. Nevertheless, the Hokies are set up to rush the passer and cover, two hallmarks of Foster's defenses over the years.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Joey Slye (20-of-28 on field goals) has the leg to go 50-plus if his accuracy comes around. Punter A.J. Hughes had offseason back surgery, partly explaining why his average fell from 44.1 in 2013 to 39.9 last season. Greg Stroman nearly broke half a dozen punt returns for touchdowns last year, although the stagnant kick return game needs a jumpstart.

FINAL ANALYSIS Virginia Tech is 22–17 overall and a .500 team in the league since 2012, prompting the uncomfortable conversation about how much longer revered coach Frank Beamer will walk the sideline in Blacksburg. A return to prominence would quash that talk, and with 16 returning starters, including a promising group of up-and-coming playmakers on offense and Foster's usual great defense, Virginia Tech has a chance to challenge in the Coastal Division again. Another middling season, however, will only intensify the chatter that perhaps it's time for Beamer to pass the torch.


KENDALL FULLER

"When (Brandon) Facyson and Kendall Fuller are healthy that's maybe as good a pair of cornerbacks as they've had."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	1	**Isaiah Ford (So.)**	81	Kevin Asante (Sr.)	
WR	5	**Cam Phillips (So.)**	80	Demitri Knowles (Sr.)	
LT	71	**Jonathan McLaughlin (Jr.)**	69	Yosuah Nijman (Fr.)	
LG	57	**Wyatt Teller (So.)**	75	Alston Smith (Jr.)	
C	64	Eric Gallo (So.)	61	Kyle Chung (So.)	
RG	72	**Augie Conte (Jr.)**	58	Colt Pettit (Fr.)	
RT	77	Wade Hansen (Sr.)	52	Darius Redman (Sr.)	
TE	7	**Bucky Hodges (So.)**	88	**Ryan Malleck (Sr.)**	
QB	12	**Michael Brewer (Sr.)**	9	Brenden Motley (Jr.)	
FB	45	Sam Rogers (Jr.)	25	Jerome Wright (Jr.)	
RB	4	J.C. Coleman (Sr.)	14	Trey Edmunds (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	90	**Dadi Nicolas (Sr.)**	8	Melvin Keihn (So.)	
DT	96	**Corey Marshall (Sr.)**	60	Woody Baron (Jr.)	
DT	92	Luther Maddy (Sr.)	95	**Nigel Williams (Jr.)**	
DE	4	**Ken Ekanem (Jr.)**	43	Seth Dooley (So.)	
ILB	54	Andrew Motuapuaka (So.)	44	Carson Lydon (Fr.)	
ILB	40	**Deon Clarke (Sr.)**	50	Jamieon Moss (So.)	
OLB	37	Ronny Vandyke (Sr.)	29	Holland Fisher (Fr.)	
CB	11	**Kendall Fuller (Jr.)**	3	Greg Stroman (So.)	
CB	31	Brandon Facyson (So.)	6	Mook Reynolds (Fr.)	
ROV	21	C.J. Reavis (So.)	2	**Donovan Riley (Sr.)**	
FS	19	**Chuck Clark (Jr.)**	26	Desmond Frye (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Joey Slye (So.)	KR	20	Deon Newsome (So.)
P	27	A.J. Hughes (Sr.)	PR	3	Greg Stroman (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Michael Brewer, 441-262-2,692-15, 18 TDs
Rushing: J.C. Coleman, 107 att., 533 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Isaiah Ford, 56 rec., 709 tds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Deon Clarke, 74
Sacks: Ken Ekanem, 9.5
Interceptions: Donovan Riley, 2; Kendall Fuller, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

AMERICAN ATHLETIC PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	EAST	WEST
1	CINCINNATI **BEARCATS** 9-4, 6-2 American	HOUSTON **COUGARS** 9-4, 6-2 American
2	TEMPLE **OWLS** 7-5, 5-3 American	NAVY **MIDSHIPMEN** 9-3, 6-2 American
3	UCF **KNIGHTS** 7-5, 5-3 American	MEMPHIS **TIGERS** 8-4, 6-2 American
4	EAST CAROLINA **PIRATES** 6-6, 5-3 American	SMU **MUSTANGS** 4-8, 2-6 American
5	SOUTH FLORIDA **BULLS** 4-8, 2-6 American	TULANE **GREEN WAVE** 4-8, 2-6 American
6	CONNECTICUT **HUSKIES** 3-9, 1-7 American	TULSA **GOLDEN HURRICANE** 4-8, 2-6 American

AAC Championship Game: Cincinnati over Houston

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Birmingham Bowl: Florida 28, East Carolina 20
Miami Beach Bowl: Memphis 55, BYU 48, 2OT
Armed Forces Bowl: Houston 35, Pittsburgh 34
Military Bowl: Virginia Tech 33, Cincinnati 17
St. Petersburg Bowl: NC State 34, UCF 27

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Birmingham Bowl: Memphis vs. South Carolina
Boca Raton Bowl: East Carolina vs. Toledo
Cure Bowl: UCF vs. Georgia Southern
Hawaii Bowl: Temple vs. BYU
Miami Beach Bowl: Cincinnati vs. WKU
Military Bowl: Navy vs. Louisville
St. Petersburg Bowl: Houston vs. Marshall

Moore: Tom DiPace; Reynolds: USNA Athletics

2014 AAC STANDINGS

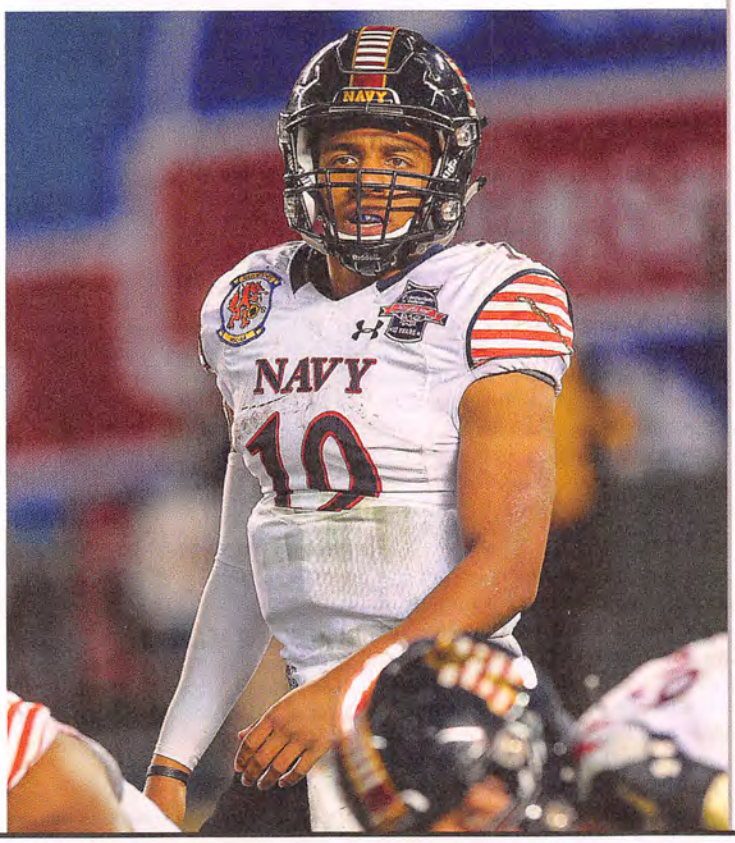
	AAC	OVERALL		AAC	OVERALL
MEMPHIS	7-1	10-3	USF	3-5	4-8
CINCINNATI	7-1	9-4	TULANE	2-6	3-9
UCF	7-1	9-4	TULSA	2-6	2-10
EAST CAROLINA	5-3	8-5	UCONN	1-7	2-10
HOUSTON	5-3	8-5	SMU	1-7	1-11
TEMPLE	4-4	6-6			

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	2	4	1	2	7	9	4
CONNECTICUT	12	10	9	12	6	4	3
EAST CAROLINA	10	7	3	1	4	3	5
HOUSTON	4	3	6	8	8	8	1
MEMPHIS	3	9	4	5	5	10	8
NAVY	1	6	12	7	11	12	10
SMU	7	12	5	3	12	7	11
SOUTH FLORIDA	11	1	7	11	9	2	7
TEMPLE	6	11	8	10	1	1	2
TULANE	9	5	10	9	3	6	6
TULSA	8	8	2	4	10	5	12
UCF	5	2	11	6	2	11	9

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. South Florida 2. Cincinnati 3. UCF 4. Memphis 5. Temple 6. SMU
7. Houston 8. East Carolina 9. Tulane 10. Connecticut 11. Navy 12. Tulsa



PRESEASON ALL-AAC TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Keenan Reynolds	5-11	195	Sr.	Navy
RB	Kenneth Farrow	5-10	218	Sr.	Houston
RB	Marlon Mack	6-0	195	So.	South Florida
WR	Keevan Lucas	5-10	198	Jr.	Tulsa
WR	Mekale McKay	6-6	195	Sr.	Cincinnati
TE	Alan Cross	6-1	245	Sr.	Memphis
C	Kyle Friend	6-2	305	Sr.	Temple
G	E.K. Binns	6-3	282	Sr.	Navy
G	J.T. Boyd	6-4	302	Jr.	East Carolina
T	Parker Ehinger	6-7	315	Sr.	Cincinnati
T	Ike Harris	6-7	304	Sr.	East Carolina

First-Team Defense

DL	Matt Ioannidis	6-4	285	Sr.	Temple
DL	Silverberry Mouhon	6-4	252	Sr.	Cincinnati
DL	Thomas Niles	6-2	270	Sr.	UCF
DL	Praise-Martin Oguike	6-2	250	Jr.	Temple
LB	Zeek Bigger	6-2	228	Sr.	East Carolina
LB	Nigel Harris	6-0	220	Jr.	South Florida
LB	Tyler Matakevich	6-1	235	Sr.	Temple
CB	Josh Hawkins	5-10	186	Sr.	ECU
CB	William Jackson	6-1	185	Sr.	Houston
S	Zach Edwards	5-11	186	Jr.	Cincinnati
S	Adrian McDonald	5-10	190	Sr.	Houston

First-Team Specialists

K	Jake Elliott	5-10	165	Jr.	Memphis
P	Mattias Ciabatti	6-0	189	Sr.	South Florida
KR	Deion Sanders Jr.	5-7	174	Jr.	SMU
PR	Trevon Brown	6-2	206	So.	East Carolina

Second-Team Offense

QB	Gunner Kiel	6-4	208	Jr.	Cincinnati
RB	William Stanback	6-1	225	Jr.	UCF
RB	Chris Swain	6-1	245	Sr.	Navy
WR	Keyarris Garrett	6-4	221	Sr.	Tulsa
WR	Isaiah Jones	6-1	188	Jr.	ECU
TE	Bryce Williams	6-6	250	Sr.	ECU
C	Deyshawn Bond	6-2	298	Jr.	Cincinnati
G	Brynjar Gudmundsson	6-4	305	Sr.	South Florida
G	Quincy McKinney	6-4	311	Sr.	ECU
T	Taylor Fallin	6-6	325	Sr.	Memphis
T	Garrett Stafford	6-5	314	Sr.	Tulsa

Second-Team Defense

DL	Derrick Alexander	6-2	270	Sr.	Tulsa
DL	Royce LaFrance	6-4	265	Sr.	Tulane
DL	Jamiyus Pittman	6-0	300	So.	UCF
DL	Bernard Sarra	6-1	303	Sr.	Navy
LB	Nico Marley	5-9	200	Jr.	Tulane
LB	Montese Overton	6-3	220	Sr.	ECU
LB	Graham Stewart	6-1	228	Sr.	Connecticut
CB	Parry Nickerson	5-11	179	So.	Tulane
CB	Tavon Young	5-10	180	Sr.	Temple
S	Darion Monroe	5-11	197	Sr.	Tulane
S	Trevon Stewart	5-9	185	Sr.	Houston

Second-Team Specialists

K	Andrew Gantz	5-9	158	So.	Cincinnati
P	Dalton Parks	6-3	202	Jr.	Tulsa
KR	D'Angelo Brewer	5-9	185	So.	Tulsa
PR	Shaq Washington	5-9	174	Sr.	Cincinnati

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

National Forecast: 40
American East Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Tommy Tuberville
Record at School: 18-8 (2 years)
Career Record: 148-85 (19 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eddie Gran
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Clinkscale
Cincinnati, OH • Nippert Stadium (40,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
15 Alabama A&M
12 Temple
19 at Miami (Ohio)
24 at Memphis

OCTOBER
1 Miami
17 at BYU
24 Connecticut
31 UCF

NOVEMBER
7 at Houston
14 Tulsa
20 at South Florida
28 at East Carolina

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Sept.	12	Toledo	W	58-34
Sept.	20	Miami (Ohio)	W	31-24
Sept.	27	at Ohio State	L	28-50
Oct.	4	Memphis	L	14-41
Oct.	11	at Miami	L	34-55
Oct.	18	at SMU	W	41-3
Oct.	24	South Florida	W	34-17
Oct.	31	at Tulane	W	38-14
Nov.	13	East Carolina	W	54-46
Nov.	22	at Connecticut	W	41-0
Nov.	29	at Temple	W	14-6
Dec.	6	Houston	W	38-31
Dec.	27	vs. Virginia Tech #	L	17-33

#Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ross Trail, QB, Wynne, AR
2. Kahlil Lewis, WR, Hollywood, FL
3. Marquise Copeland, DE, Bedford, OH
4. Joshuwa Holloman, RB, Auburn Hills, MI
5. Matthew Draper, LB, South Euclid, OH
6. Evan Mallory, OL, Brownsburg, IN
7. Taylor Boose, RB, Clifton, VA
8. Malik Clements, S, Danville, VA
9. Bryce Jenkinson, LB, Greenville, OH
10. Doug Bates, TE, Cincinnati, OH

STAT CORNER

6.0

Yards per play allowed by Cincinnati in 2014, 98th in FBS. The Bearcats allowed just 4.8 per play in '13, coach Tommy Tuberville's first season.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	34.0 ppg	3	29
Rushing	156.5 ypg	4	72
Passing	303.6 ypg	2	13
Total	460.2 ypg	2	27
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	7	68
Rushing	183.7 ypg	9	85
Passing	255.4 ypg	8	97
Total	439.1 ypg	9	96
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+2	+0.15	5	53

OFFENSE Quarterback Gunner Kiel came out firing in the 2014 opener with six touchdown passes in his collegiate debut. Kiel, a former No. 1 quarterback recruit who began his career at Notre Dame, finished with 31 TD passes to tie the Cincinnati single-season record, and his top seven receivers return. One question is durability. Kiel, now a junior, made all 13 starts last season, but he left several games with rib and/or back injuries. The UC training staff has worked with Kiel to improve his core strength.

Possession receiver Shaq Washington (66 catches, four TDs) is on pace to become the UC career leader in receptions. Mekale McKay and Chris Moore (eight TD catches apiece) are the deep threats in UC's four-wideout offense.

UC ranked 13th nationally in passing offense but only 72nd in rushing, and the preseason focus is to improve the run game. One problem was that top backs Hosey Williams and Tion Green missed most of 2014 with injuries. Mike Boone led the club with 650 yards rushing and nine TDs as a true freshman. Boone and Williams will battle for the No 1 job in preseason camp.

The line loses three-time all-league left tackle Eric Lefeld. Three starters return: Parker Ehinger (moving from right guard to left tackle), right tackle Justin Murray and center Deyshawn Bond.

DEFENSE A 55–34 midseason thrashing by the Miami Hurricanes left the Bearcats dead last nationally in total defense, leading coach Tommy Tuberville to say: "We can't tackle anybody on defense. We look like the Bad News Bears." Two weeks before that, UC had allowed 710 yards in a 50–28 loss to Ohio State. The schedule lightened up in the second half of the season, and the Bearcats gradually rose to No. 96 in total defense. But UC's relative lack of defensive speed has been exposed by Power 5 schools.

Key losses include linebackers Jeff Luc (134 tackles) and Nick Temple (113) and defensive end Terrell Hartsfield (AAC-best 9.0 sacks). Defensive end Silverberry Mouhon is the top returnee among the front seven.

Ball-hawking safety Zach Edwards (121 tackles) is back, and the secondary should benefit from the return of veteran cornerback Adrian Witty. A vocal team leader, Witty missed most of 2014 with a leg injury.

UC has its third defensive coordinator in three seasons under Tuberville, with Steve Clinkscale promoted from secondary/cornerbacks coach. Last year's coordinator, Hank Hughes, left to become defensive line coach at Nebraska.

SPECIALISTS The special teams also will have their third coordinator in Tuberville's third UC season as Ty Linder joins the staff from TCU. Placekicker Andrew Gantz returns after a solid debut season that saw him earn second-team All-AAC honors after making 16-of-20 field goal attempts. Punter Sam Geraci also made his UC debut last year and improved as the season progressed, finishing with a 39.4-yard average. The coverage teams were better after a dreadful 2013 season, but UC again produced little in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS After two consecutive 9–4 seasons and two bowl losses under Tuberville, some believe UC is running in place. The Bearcats did share the AAC title last year, but they lack a signature win in Tuberville's brief tenure. Tuberville turns 61 in September, and he has not had a team finish in the final AP top 25 since 2007 (Auburn). The 2014 Bearcats don't look like a top 25 team, either, but they should be considered the favorite in the East Division of the expanded American Athletic Conference. There are some issues on defense, but the offense, led by Kiel, will put UC in position to win eight or nine games once again.


GUNNER KIEL

"I think their personnel is as good as anyone in the league. They're really athletic. They've got a ton of wtalent."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	2	**Mekale McKay (Sr.)**	80	Alex Chisum (Sr.)	
WR	19	**Shaq Washington (Sr.)**	17	Jeremy Graves (Jr.)	
WR	25	**Max Morrison (Sr.)**	84	Nate Cole (Jr.)	
WR	15	**Chris Moore (Sr.)**	3	Johnny Holton (Sr.)	
LT	78	**Parker Ehinger (Sr.)**	71	Korey Cunningham (So.)	
LG	73	Ryan Leahy (Jr.)	76	Evan Mallory (Fr.)	
C	59	**Deyshawn Bond (Jr.)**	66	David Niehaus (So.)	
RG	51	Delonte Murray (Jr.)	54	Luke Callahan (Fr.)	
RT	74	**Justin Murray (Sr.)**	58	Chad West (Sr.)	
QB	11	**Gunner Kiel (Jr.)**	9	Hayden Moore (Fr.)	
RB	23	Hosey Williams (Sr.)	5	Mike Boone (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	92	**Silverberry Mouhon (Sr.)**	47	Landon Brazile (Fr.)
DT	96	Cortez Broughton (Fr.)	91	Hakeem Allonce (Jr.)
DT	99	Alex Pace (Jr.)	94	Chris Burton (So.)
DE	56	Mark Wilson (So.)	38	Mason Antoun (Sr.)
LB	23	Eric Wilson (Jr.)		Jaylyin Minor (So.)
LB	6	Clemente Casseus (Sr.)	42	Antonio Kinard (Jr.)
LB	9	**Leviticus Payne (Sr.)**	40	Kevin Brown (Sr.)
CB	13	**Grant Coleman (Jr.)**	25	Alex Thomas (Fr.)
CB	8	Adrian Witty (Sr.)	32	Linden Stephens (So.)
S	29	**Andre Jones (Jr.)**	2	Tyrell Gilbert (Fr.)
S	4	**Zach Edwards (Jr.)**	20	Carter Jacobs (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Andrew Gantz (So.)	KR	3	Johnny Holton (Sr.)
P	26	Sam Geraci (So.)	PR	19	Shaq Washington (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gunner Kiel, 390-233-3,254-13, 31 TDs
Rushing: Mike Boone, 101 att., 650 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Shaq Washington, 66 rec., 761 yds., 11.5, 4 TDs
Tackles: Zach Edwards, 121
Sacks: Silverberry Mouhon, 4
Interceptions: Zach Edwards, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tom DiPace

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

National Forecast: 109
American East Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Bob Diaco
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Frank Verducci
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Vincent Brown, Anthony Poindexter
Storrs, CT • Rentschler Field (40,642)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
3	Villanova
12	Army
19	at Missouri
26	Navy
OCTOBER	
2	at BYU
10	at UCF
17	South Florida
24	at Cincinnati
30	East Carolina
NOVEMBER	
7	at Tulane
21	Houston
28	at Temple

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug.	29	BYU	L	10-35
Sept.	6	Stony Brook	W	19-16
Sept.	13	Boise State	L	21-38
Sept.	19	at South Florida	L	14-17
Sept.	27	Temple	L	10-36
Oct.	11	at Tulane	L	3-12
Oct.	23	at East Carolina	L	21-31
Nov.	1	UCF	W	37-29
Nov.	8	vs. Army #	L	21-35
Nov.	22	Cincinnati	L	0-41
Nov.	29	at Memphis	L	10-41
Dec.	6	SMU	L	20-27

#Bronx

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. David Ryslik, DE, Freehold, NJ
2. Nazir Williams, LB, Bridgeton, NJ
3. Kevin Murphy, DL, West Chester, PA
4. Aaron Garland, DB, Oak Park, IL
5. Hergy Mayala, WR, Montreal, QC
6. Phillippe Okounam, DE, Chateauguay, QC
7. Frank Battle, WR, Miami, FL
8. Tyler Davis, QB, North Bellmore, NY
9. William Richardson, LB, Washington DC
10. Marshe Terry, DB, Columbus, NJ

STAT CORNER

4.50

Yards per play by the UConn offense last season, 10th in the AAC (ahead of only SMU) and 122nd in the nation.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	15.5 ppg	10	122
Rushing	106.9 ypg	10	116
Passing	169.3 ypg	10	111
Total	276.3 ypg	10	123
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	9	84
Rushing	169.8 ypg	7	69
Passing	208.8 ypg	4	36
Total	378.6 ypg	6	49
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-13	-1.08	10	116

OFFENSE Coach Bob Diaco shifted his entire offensive staff with every coach moving to a different position after the unit was among the least productive in FBS last year, averaging a lowly 15.5 points per game. The Huskies also brought in veteran coach Frank Verducci as offensive coordinator to help develop a physical and ball-control running game.

The quarterback position rests with sophomore Bryant Shirreffs, who has the inside track over junior Tim Boyle after a strong spring. Shirreffs, who sat out last season as a transfer from NC State, is a dual-threat quarterback who has shown excellent running ability and impressed the staff with his arm on deep throws. Boyle remains in the hunt, though the junior struggled after being named the starter late last season and has thrown only one touchdown with 11 career interceptions. True freshman Tyler Davis, who enrolled in the spring, and junior college transfer Garrett Anderson will also be in the mix.

The other skill positions are in better shape. Sophomore running back Ron Johnson will be the featured back after leading the team in rushing a year ago with 429 yards and averaging 3.8 yards per carry. Fellow sophomore Arkeel Newsome is an explosive talent who will be used in the screen game and is capable of making plays in space.

The top two wide receivers from last season must be replaced, but there is a budding star in junior Noel Thomas, an explosive downfield threat. He finished the year with 305 yards on 26 catches with four touchdowns. Sophomore Thomas Lucas is a physical receiver who has shown an ability to create separation. Dhameer Bradley remains a dangerous slot receiver.

There is reason for hope for a line that struggled last season for the nation's 123rd-ranked offense. Mammoth 6'8", 310-pound junior Andreas Knappe and fellow junior Richard Levy return as bookend tackles.

DEFENSE The Huskies return seven starters on defense, including their top four tacklers. There is experience and production at all levels as UConn enters its second year in the 3-4 alignment favored by Diaco. The defense is led by senior linebackers Marquise Vann and Graham Stewart. Vann led the team with 105 tackles, while Stewart had 94 tackles and led the Huskies with 10.5 tackles for a loss.

The secondary is strong. Andrew Adams returns at free safety after securing 96 tackles and four interceptions, and he's joined by the physically gifted Obi Melinfonwu at strong safety. The corners — junior Jhavon Williams and sophomore Jamar Summers — are talented cover guys. Summers stepped in last season after an injury to NFL-bound Byron Jones.

The defensive line returns its top player in senior nose tackle Julian Campenni. Sophomore defensive end Folorunso Fatukasi is a player on the rise.

SPECIALISTS Junior Bobby Puyol returns at kicker after making 9-of-14 field goals, but he will be pushed by strong-legged freshman Michael Tarbutt. Justin Wain had an excellent first season as the punter with a 38.8-yard average and 17 punts inside the 20.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off a 2–10 season in Diaco's first year — the worst in their 11-year history in the FBS — the Huskies should be better across the board. The Huskies have not made a bowl game in four years and possess a difficult non-conference schedule with games at BYU and Missouri and conference road games at UCF and Cincinnati. The defense should be very solid, but the Huskies will have to dramatically improve on offense to even be in contention for a bowl bid late in the season.


GRAHAM STEWART

"The big thing for this team is finding an answer at quarterback, and I'm not real sure where they go."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	5	Noel Thomas (Jr.)	1	Dhameer Bradley (Jr.)
WR	8	Thomas Lucas (So.)	18	Brian Lemelle (Jr.)
LT	71	**Richard Levy (Jr.)**	73	Steve Hashemi (So.)
LG	62	Tommy Hopkins (So.)	58	Brendan Vechery (So.)
C	63	Ryan Crozier (So.)	75	Daniel Oak (Fr.)
RG	60	**Tyler Samra (Sr.)**	58	Brendan Vechery (So.)
RT	53	**Andreas Knappe (Jr.)**	77	Trey Rutherford (So.)
TE	49	**Sean McQuillan (Sr.)**	80	Tommy Myers (So.)
QB	4	Bryant Shirreffs (So.)	14	Tim Boyle (Jr.)
FB	34	Jazzmar Clax (Jr.)	38	William Weyrauch (Jr.)
RB	3	Ron Johnson (So.)	22	Arkeel Newsome (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	95	**Kenton Adeyemi (Sr.)**	57	Cole Ormsby (So.)
NT	90	**Julian Campenni (Sr.)**	92	Mikal Myers (Jr.)
DE	93	Folorunso Fatukasi (So.)	50	Sheriden Lawley (Fr.)
LB	15	Luke Carrezola (So.)	10	Cam Stapleton (So.)
LB	11	Junior Joseph (So.)	36	Matt Walsh (Jr.)
LB	46	**Marquise Vann (Sr.)**	55	Jon Hicks (Jr.)
LB	2	**Graham Stewart (Sr.)**	59	Vontae Diggs (So.)
CB	6	**Jhavon Williams (Jr.)**	4	Javon Hadley (Jr.)
CB	21	Jamar Summers (So.)	7	John Green (Jr.)
SS	20	**Obi Melifonwu (Jr.)**	19	Ellis Marder (Jr.)
FS	22	**Andrew Adams (Sr.)**	23	Junior Lee (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Bobby Puyol (Jr.)	KR	22	Arkeel Newsome (So.)
P	42	Justin Wain (Jr.)	PR	22	Arkeel Newsome (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tim Boyle, 82-43-335-3, 1 TD
Rushing: Ron Johnson, 114 att., 429 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Noel Thomas, 26 rec., 305 yds., 4 TD
Tackles: Marquise Vann, 105
Sacks: Cole Ormsby, 3.5
Interceptions: Andrew Adams, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Steve Slade/UConn Athletics

EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

National Forecast: 72
American East Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Ruffin McNeill
Record at School: 37-27 (5 years)
Career Record: 38-27 (5+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Nichol
Defensive Coordinator: Rick Smith
Greenville, NC
Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (50,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Towson
12 at Florida
19 at Navy
26 Virginia Tech

OCTOBER
3 at SMU
10 at BYU
17 Tulsa
22 Temple
30 at Connecticut

NOVEMBER
7 South Florida
19 at UCF
28 Cincinnati

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug.	30	NC Central	W	52-7
Sept.	6	at South Carolina	L	23-33
Sept.	13	at Virginia Tech	W	28-21
Sept.	20	North Carolina	W	70-41
Oct.	4	SMU	W	45-24
Oct.	11	at South Florida	W	28-17
Oct.	23	Connecticut	W	31-21
Nov.	1	at Temple	L	10-20
Nov.	13	at Cincinnati	L	46-54
Nov.	22	Tulane	W	34-6
Nov.	28	at Tulsa	W	49-32
Dec.	4	UCF	L	30-32
Jan.	3	vs. Florida #	L	20-28

#Birmingham Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deondre Farrier, WR, Orlando, FL
2. Justin Brown, DT, Greenville, NC
3. Shawn Furlow, RB, Greenville, NC
4. Darius Commissiong, DT, District Heights, MD*
5. James Summers, WR, Greensboro, NC*
6. Justin Sandifer, DT, Greenwood, MS*
7. Nhyre Quinerly, CB, Norfolk, VA
8. Darius Wright, ILB, Irmo, SC*
9. Justin Strozier, WR, Stockbridge, GA
10. Darius Anderson, OT, Jonesboro, GA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

49.0

Passes attempted per game by the ECU offense in 2014, second only to Washington State (64.3).

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	35.8 ppg	2	22
Rushing	161.1 ypg	3	64
Passing	371.9 ypg	1	3
Total	533.0 ypg	1	5
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	25.8 ppg	5	53
Rushing	111.8 ypg	2	11
Passing	255.5 ypg	9	98
Total	367.3 ypg	5	37
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-4	-0.31	8	89

OFFENSE Some of the Pirates' top swashbucklers are gone, including offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley (off to Oklahoma) and the AAC Player of the Year, quarterback Shane Carden. That doesn't mean the Air Raid offense is taking on water. New OC Dave Nichol is confident that strong-armed sophomore Kurt Benkert can step in and keep the ship on course.

There's still a treasure chest of receivers, even without Justin Hardy and Cam Worthy (who combined for 2,510 yards and 14 scores last year). Returnees such as Isaiah Jones (81 catches, second on the team), Davon Grayson, Jimmy Williams and Trevon Brown will share Benkert's booty in the passing game. Don't count out eagerly anticipated freshman Deondre Farrier, who was wooed by Florida, Miami and USC, among others.

In a subtle tweak, 6'6", 250-pound Bryce Williams might be listed as an inside receiver in the spread but actually is an old-fashioned tight end. He will see more action than just around the goal line, where he terrorizes defensive backs and linebackers. On the ground, Chris Hairston (6.7 yards per carry) and a couple of other solid candidates operate behind a big, veteran offensive line that will be a strength of the team under new line coach Brad Davis.

The big concern is that Benkert threw only 10 passes last year. He was a quick study in the spring, and the offense should again set sail, maybe with a more stellar running game to punch up the red-zone offense.

DEFENSE The Pirates like to stop the run — they were 11th in the nation, allowing just 111.8 rushing yards per game — and get after opponents on third down (13th, yielding just 34.2 percent conversions).

Linebacker Zeek Bigger is the returning tackles leader (140), but fellow senior Montese Overton should be the next big thing. He has all the tools. Physical Devaris Brunson is back from his knee injury in the middle, too, and walk-on Joe Allely just keeps improving on the weak side. Incoming junior college linebacker Darius Wright will get a long look, too.

The backers will need help from a rebuilding front. End Johnathon White is the only returning starter, and he'll get a push from K'Hadree Hooker. Terrell Stanley has made a dramatic return from injuries suffered in an auto accident that sidelined him last year. He was honorable mention All-C-USA in 2013. Former Georgia Tech signee Darius Commissiong could figure in, too.

Senior cornerback Josh Hawkins is a ball hawk who had five interceptions and broke up 11 more passes. Free safety Travon Simmons and corner Rocco Scarfone came on strong late last year and look assured of jobs as well in a deep, experienced secondary.

SPECIALISTS Texas A&M transfer Davis Plowman is the favorite to fill Warren Harvey's shoes as the placekicker, and that won't be easy after Harvey set the career ECU scoring record. Punter Worth Gregory averaged 43.6 yards, put 19 kicks inside the 20-yard line and had 13 50-yard boots on his way to Ray Guy Award consideration.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ruffin McNeill, on a cane all spring after hip surgery, can stand tall with what he has done in Greenville at his alma mater. The Pirates were 5–3 in their first year in the American Athletic Conference and went to their fourth bowl in McNeill's five seasons. He graduated the leading passer in school history and the FBS's all-time receptions leader (Hardy), but he had a 105-man roster out in spring, certainly a sign of a healthy program. If his young quarterback comes through, it looks like he has another bowl team to lean on.



ISAIAH JONES

"People talk about their offense, but they have better personnel defensively than people give them credit for."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	87	Terrell Green (So.)	88	Trevon Brown (So.)	
WR	**7**	**Isaiah Jones (Jr.)**	20	Quay Johnson (So.)	
WR	**85**	**Davon Grayson (Jr.)**	81	Jimmy Williams (Jr.)	
LT	**69**	**Ike Harris (Sr.)**	76	Stewart Hinson (Sr.)	
LG	**72**	**Quincy McKinney (Sr.)**	55	Larry Williams (So.)	
C	50	C.J. Struyk (Sr.)	72	Christian Matau (So.)	
RG	**65**	**J.T. Boyd (Jr.)**	55	Larry Williams (So.)	
RT	**71**	**Dontae Levingston (Sr.)**	68	Tre Robertson (Sr.)	
TE	80	Bryce Williams (Sr.)	86	Steve Baggett (So.)	
QB	6	Kurt Benkert (So.)	10	Blake Kemp (Jr.)	
RB	22	Chris Hairston (Sr.)	3	Anthony Scott (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	66	Terrell Stanley (Sr.)	99	Fred Presley (Jr.)
NT	56	Demetri McGill (Jr.)	97	Demage Bailey (So.)
DE	**94**	**Johnathon White (Sr.)**	9	K'Hadree Hooker (Jr.)
SLB	**51**	**Montese Overton (Sr.)**	46	Yiannis Bowden (Fr.)
ILB	**44**	**Zeek Bigger (Sr.)**	55	Cam White (Jr.)
ILB	34	Devaris Brunson (Jr.)	42	Jordan Williams (So.)
WLB	57	Joe Allely (So.)	59	Reece Speight (Jr.)
CB	**28**	**Josh Hawkins (Sr.)**	14	Travis Phillips (So.)
CB	10	Rocco Scarfone (Sr.)	39	DaShaun Amos (Jr.)
S	22	Terrell Richardson (Jr.)	6	DaShawn Benton (Jr.)
S	3	Travon Simmons (So.)	**31**	**Domonique Lennon (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Davis Plowman (Jr.)	KR	7	Isaiah Jones (Jr.)
P	40	Worth Gregory (Jr.)	PR	88	Trevon Brown (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kurt Benkert, 10-8-58-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Chris Hairston, 79 att., 528 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Isaiah Jones, 81 rec., 830 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Zeek Bigger, 140
Sacks: Fred Presley, 6.0
Interceptions: Josh Hawkins, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

East Carolina SID

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

National Forecast: 99
American East Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Willie Taggart
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 22-38 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Willie Taggart
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Allen
Tampa, FL • Raymond James Stadium (65,890)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Florida A&M
12	at Florida State
19	at Maryland
OCTOBER	
2	Memphis
10	Syracuse
17	at Connecticut
24	SMU
31	at Navy
NOVEMBER	
7	at East Carolina
14	Temple
20	Cincinnati
27	at UCF

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug.	30	Western Carolina	W	36-31
Sept.	6	Maryland	L	17-24
Sept.	13	NC State	L	17-49
Sept.	19	Connecticut	W	17-14
Sept.	27	at Wisconsin	L	10-27
Oct.	11	East Carolina	L	17-28
Oct.	18	at Tulsa	W	38-30
Oct.	24	at Cincinnati	L	17-34
Nov.	1	Houston	L	3-27
Nov.	15	at SMU	W	14-13
Nov.	22	at Memphis	L	20-31
Nov.	28	UCF	L	0-16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Glen Bethel, OT, Miami, FL*
2. Khalid McGee, S, Miami, FL
3. Danny Thomas, LB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Trevon Sands, ATH, Miami, FL
5. Ronnie Hoggins, CB, Pompano Beach, FL
6. Marlon Gonzalez, DE, Cape Coral, FL
7. Marcus Norman, OT, Sebastian, FL
8. Chris Barr, WR, Jacksonville, FL
9. Malik Vaccaro-Dixon, DB, Port Charlotte, FL
10. Billy Atterbury, OL, Clearwater, FL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

4.3

Average margin of victory in South Florida's six wins during Willie Taggart's two seasons. All six have been by eight points or fewer.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	17.2 ppg	8	116
Rushing	107.9 ypg	8	114
Passing	196.8 ypg	9	95
Total	304.7 ypg	9	118
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	27.0 ppg	6	65
Rushing	182.9 ypg	8	83
Passing	219.8 ypg	5	51
Total	402.8 ypg	8	69
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
0	0.00	6	59

OFFENSE After struggling for two seasons under Willie Taggart's smash-mouth style, the South Florida Bulls have changed to an up-tempo attack, heavy on spread principles and getting their skill players open in space. But who will run the show? After the transfer of drop-back quarterback Mike White, sophomore Quinton Flowers seems the best candidate because of his quick feet, improved accuracy and quick thinking. Senior Steven Bench could figure into the equation, but he has been mistake-prone.

Consistency would be welcomed. Taggart has used five different starting quarterbacks in two seasons.

The quarterback's biggest job will be to get the ball to running back Marlon Mack, the American Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year in 2014. Mack galloped to 1,041 yards and nine TDs, including a program-record 275 yards in his debut. Mack is an electrifying open-field runner, but he's more impressive in displaying patience to read his blocks and aggressiveness in hitting the hole.

Opportunities abound at wide receiver, where junior Rodney Adams has the most experience and sophomore Ryeshene Bronson displays the most potential. Meanwhile, it's the last chance for senior tight end Sean Price, a former four-star recruit who has fallen short of his potential due to injuries and inconsistency.

There are spots to fill along the offensive line, especially at center as three-year starter Austin Reiter has departed. The rapid-fire offensive pace will also be an adjustment for the guys up front.

DEFENSE After South Florida's defense plunged to a No. 69 national ranking and twice allowed 589 yards in a game, there's a new look with former Ole Miss linebackers coach Tom Allen taking over as coordinator. Allen has implemented a 4-2-5 formation, transforming a linebacker into a hybrid position and creating better chances to counter spread offenses.

The Bulls have playmakers in junior linebacker Nigel Harris, who led the nation in forced fumbles per game, and senior linebacker Tashon Whitehurst, who had a monster spring game (19 tackles), along with a steady leader in sophomore linebacker Auggie Sanchez. Big things are expected from redshirt freshman linebacker Jimmy Bayes.

Defensive backs are prevalent. Allen likes the aggressiveness of senior safety Jamie Byrd and the improvement of sophomore cornerback Tajee Fullwood, while sophomore cornerback Devin Abraham could be a future star.

The Bulls desperately need a better pass rush up front. Senior Eric Lee is the most experienced defensive end, while highly recruited big men junior Derrick Calloway and sophomore Deadrin Senat are expected to man the interior.

SPECIALISTS The Bulls have one of the nation's top punters in senior Mattias Ciabatti, who averaged a school-record 44.4 yards with 18 kicks of 50-plus yards and 22 downed inside the 20. Sophomore Emilio Nadelman will get first look at placekicker and must replace reliable Marvin Kloss, who was a Lou Groza Award finalist in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS It has the look of a produce-or-else season for Taggart, who is 6–18 with the Bulls and must avoid the program's fifth straight season without a bowl appearance. Taggart fired three assistant coaches immediately after last season, including both coordinators. He changed the offensive style of play, shocking observers who said Taggart was too stubborn.

Mack is a wonderful weapon. There are some building blocks on defense. But the schedule is formidable, and the Bulls must make a big jump to reach the postseason. The offense may be picking up the pace, but Taggart is running out of time.


MARLON MACK

"I can't figure out why they tried to do so much on offense with formations. They couldn't get lined up right half the time."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	6	A.J. Legree (Jr.)	18	Evan Wilson (So.)	
WR	87	Rodney Adams (Jr.)	26	Chase Whitehead (Fr.)	
WR	81	Ryeshene Bronson (So.)	86	Stanley Clerveaux (Fr.)	
LT		Glen Bethel (Jr.)	75	Kofi Amichia (Jr.)	
LG	64	**Thor Jozwiak (Sr.)**	73	Jeremi Hall (So.)	
C	74	Cameron Ruff (So.)	68	Michael Galati (Fr.)	
RG	66	**Brynjar Gudmundsson (Sr.)**	61	Dominique Threatt (Jr.)	
RT	71	Mak Djulbegovic (Sr.)	65	Clavion Nelson (Jr.)	
TE	12	**Sean Price (Sr.)**	11	Marlon Pope (Sr.)	
QB	9	Quinton Flowers (So.)	2	Steven Bench (Sr.)	
RB	5	**Marlon Mack (So.)**	31	Darius Tice (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	91	**Eric Lee (Sr.)**	98	Mike Love (So.)
DT	10	Deadrin Senat (So.)	90	James Hamilton (Sr.)
DT	8	Derrick Calloway (Jr.)	60	Bruce Hector (So.)
DE	55	Josh Black (So.)	52	Zack Bullock (Sr.)
LB	43	**Auggie Sanchez (So.)**	54	LeGrande Harley (Sr.)
LB	57	**Nigel Harris (Jr.)**	51	Tashon Whitehurst (Sr.)
CB	6	Lamar Robbins (Jr.)	23	Mazzi Wilkins (Fr.)
CB	24	Johnny Ward (Jr.)	3	Deatrick Nichols (So.)
S	13	Tajee Fullwood (So.)	30	Jalen Spencer (Jr.)
S	36	**Nate Godwin (Jr.)**	22	Hassan Childs (Jr.)
S	2	**Jamie Byrd (Sr.)**	20	Devin Abraham (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Emilio Nadelman (So.)	KR	32	D'Ernest Johnson (So.)
P	49	Mattias Ciabatti (Sr.)	PR	22	Hassan Childs (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mike White, 242-122-1,639-7, 8 TDs
Rushing: Marlon Mack, 202 att., 1,041 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Rodney Adams, 23 rec., 323 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Jamie Byrd, 95
Sacks: Derrick Calloway, 3.0
Interceptions: Jamie Byrd, 2; Johnny Ward, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

TEMPLE OWLS

National Forecast: 62
American East Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Matt Rhule
Record at School: 8-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 8-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Satterfield
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Snow
Philadelphia, PA
Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Penn State
12 at Cincinnati
19 at Massachusetts

OCTOBER
3 at Charlotte
10 Tulane
17 UCF
24 at East Carolina
31 Notre Dame

NOVEMBER
6 at SMU
14 at South Florida
21 Memphis
28 Connecticut

2014 RESULTS (6-6, 4-4)

Aug.	28	at Vanderbilt	W	37-7
Sept.	6	Navy	L	24-31
Sept.	20	Delaware State	W	59-0
Sept.	27	at Connecticut	W	36-10
Oct.	11	Tulsa	W	35-24
Oct.	17	at Houston	L	10-31
Oct.	25	at UCF	L	14-34
Nov.	1	East Carolina	W	20-10
Nov.	7	Memphis	L	13-16
Nov.	15	at Penn State	L	13-30
Nov.	29	Cincinnati	L	6-14
Dec.	6	at Tulane	W	10-3

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. T.J. Simmons, RB, Lakeland, FL
2. Kareem Ali, DB, Sicklerville, NJ
3. Gregg Webb, DL, Sicklerville, NJ*
4. Chapelle Cook, LB, Lakewood, NJ
5. Ryquell Armstead, RB, Millville, NJ
6. Dana Levine, LB, Hallandale, FL
7. Patrick Anderson, WR, Aliquippa, PA
8. Jager Gardner, ATH, Black Mountain, NC
9. Daishaun Grimes, LB, St. Cloud, FL
10. Josiah Bronson, DL, Covington, WA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

The Temple defense's points allowed per trip inside the 40, best in the country. Unfortunately, the offense ranked 124th.

2.82

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	23.1 ppg	7	97
Rushing	107.8 ypg	9	115
Passing	200.7 ypg	8	86
Total	308.4 ypg	8	117
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	17.5 ppg	1	4
Rushing	160.2 ypg	6	52
Passing	186.9 ypg	1	13
Total	347.1 ypg	3	24
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+3	+0.25	3	45

OFFENSE When true freshman P.J. Walker became the quarterback midway through 2013, the future looked to be in capable hands. But despite a strong start to 2014, he finished the season with 13 touchdown passes and 15 interceptions. In the last seven games, those numbers were four and 11, respectively. It was hardly coincidental that the Owls lost five of those games.

Part of the problem was the line, which had injuries and lacked depth. Yet even with the possible loss of Dion Dawkins to an off-campus altercation, four players return who started at least nine games, anchored by senior center Kyle Friend, a three-year starter. The addition of three first-year guys who sat out last year should help.

The Owls also never found a replacement for wideout Robbie Anderson, who averaged 18 yards a catch with nine TDs in 2013. The hope is that Hawaii transfer Keith Kirkwood and/or redshirt freshman Ventell Bryant can emerge to fill that role.

Nobody rushed for more than 384 yards, and Walker was the second-leading rusher. But there's no shortage of candidates to address the running game. Zaire Williams, whose 533 yards two years ago were the third-most ever by a Temple freshman, barely played in 2014 because of a back injury. David Hood, who played in only two games as a freshman, also has potential, as do three new recruits — four-star T.J. Simmons, who turned down an offer from UCLA; Jager Gardner, who holds the Western North Carolina career high school rushing record (6,955 yards); and Ryquell Armstead, who has drawn comparisons to former Owl Bernard Pierce.

DEFENSE This unit had trouble stopping anyone in 2013, especially late in games, which became a contributing factor in three close losses. Things turned around in 2014 as the Owls tied for fourth in the nation in points allowed (17.5 ppg). They also forced 30 turnovers, 17 more than the year before. Six of those were returned for scores, which was only one fewer than the previous four seasons combined.

And 10 starters return. Tyler Matakevich should become the program's all-time leading tackler. He's reached 100 in each of his first three seasons, becoming only the third Owl to accomplish that feat. And his 355 career stops are by far the most of any active NCAA player.

Coach Matt Rhule has touted end Praise Martin-Oguike and tackle Matt Ioannidis as future pros. The secondary, which for way too long was an area of concern, has been significantly upgraded in the last couple of years.

The most pressing question now is depth at linebacker. Avery Williams is a former running back/defensive back, and Stephaun Marshall is a converted free safety who can back up at all three spots.

SPECIALISTS Freshman Austin Jones made 13-of-22 field goals and had at least one miss in each of the last five games. But seeing as the Owls made just three field goals in 2013 (two in the final game), that was a big improvement. First-year punter Alex Starzyk was inconsistent. The Owls ran a punt back for a touchdown and scored two other times on blocks. Rhule wants to see more from his kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Owls went from two wins in 2013 to six a year ago. There is reason to believe they can at least get back to a bowl game for the first time in four seasons, and a run at the American Athletic Conference East Division crown is not out of the question. To take that next step, the offense must produce as it did in Rhule's debut season of 2013, and Temple must find what it takes to win more close games against better opponents.


P.J. WALKER

"My guess is they'll make some noise in the conference. I'm real impressed with the job Matt (Rhule) has done there."
– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	87	Ventrell Bryant (Fr.)	84	Romond Deloatch (Jr.)	
WR	7	**John Christopher (Sr.)**	81	Brodrick Yancy (So.)	
WR	19	Keith Kirkwood (Jr.)	17	**Brandon Shippen (Sr.)**	
LT	53	Leon Johnson (So.)	74	James McHale (Fr.)	
LG	75	**Shahbaz Ahmed (Sr.)**	78	Aaron Ruff (Fr.)	
C	79	**Kyle Friend (Sr.)**	68	**Brendan McGowan (Jr.)**	
RG	55	Brian Carter (So.)	67	Semaj Reed (So.)	
RT	71	**Eric Lofton (Sr.)**	77	Jaelin Robinson (Fr.)	
TE	86	Colin Thompson (Jr.)		Cole Boozer (So.)	
QB	11	**P.J. Walker (Jr.)**		Logan March (Fr.)	
RB	23	Zaire Williams (So.)	24	David Hood (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (10)

DE	50	**Praise Martin-Oguike (Jr.)**	52	Avery Ellis (Jr.)	
DT	9	**Matt Ioannidis (Sr.)**	99	Freddie Booth-LLoyd (Fr.)	
NT	72	**Hershey Walton (Sr.)**	73	Averee Robinson (Jr.)	
DE	56	**Sharif Finch (Jr.)**	96	Jacob Martin (So.)	
WLB	8	**Tyler Matakevich (Sr.)**	6	Stephaun Marshall (Jr.)	
MLB	41	Jarred Alwan (Jr.)	35	**Nate D. Smith (Sr.)**	
SLB	2	Avery Williams (Jr.)	44	Jared Folks (Fr.)	
CB	3	**Sean Chandler (So.)**	12	Kareem Ali Jr. (Fr.)	
CB	1	**Tavon Young (Sr.)**	20	Khiry Lucas (Sr.)	
SS	32	**Will Hayes (Sr.)**	37	Boye Aromire (Sr.)	
FS	21	**Alex Wells (Sr.)**	13	Nate L. Smith (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	29	Austin Jones (So.)	KR	34	Jahad Thomas (Jr.)
P	43	Alex Starzyk (So.)	PR	26	Jamie Gilmore (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: P.J. Walker, 381-203-2,317-15, 13 TDs
Rushing: Jahad Thomas, 80 att., 384 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: John Christopher, 24 rec., 194 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Tyler Matakevich, 117
Sacks: Praise Martin-Oguike, 7.5
Interceptions: Tavon Young, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Joseph Labolito/Temple University

UCF KNIGHTS

National Forecast: 63
American East Prediction: 3

Head Coach: George O'Leary
Record at School: 81-60 (11 years)
Career Record: 133-93 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Key
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bresnahan
Orlando, FL
Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 FIU
12 at Stanford
19 Furman
26 at South Carolina

OCTOBER
3 at Tulane
10 Connecticut
17 at Temple
24 Houston
31 at Cincinnati

NOVEMBER
7 at Tulsa
19 East Carolina
27 South Florida

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Aug.	30	vs. Penn State %	L	24-26
Sept.	13	at Missouri	L	10-38
Sept.	20	Bethune-Cookman	W	41-7
Oct.	2	at Houston	W	17-12
Oct.	9	BYU (ot)	W	31-24
Oct.	18	Tulane	W	20-13
Oct.	25	Temple	W	34-14
Nov.	1	at Connecticut	L	29-37
Nov.	14	Tulsa	W	31-7
Nov.	22	SMU	W	53-7
Nov.	28	at South Florida	W	16-0
Dec.	4	at East Carolina	W	32-30
Dec.	26	vs. NC State #	L	27-34

%Dublin, Ireland #St. Petersburg Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tristan Payton, WR, Jacksonville, FL
2. Rashard Causey, CB, Miami, FL
3. Luke Hiers, OL, Lake Wales, FL
4. Brandon Scott, CB, New Sarpy, LA
5. Titus Davis, DE, Ellenwood, GA
6. Cameron Stewart, WR, Snellville, GA
7. Bo Schneider, QB, Dallas, TX
8. Quintin Hampton, LB, Moutrie, GA
9. Neal Nelson, LB, Sicklerville, NJ
10. Taj McGowan, RB, Hallandale, FL

STAT CORNER

Percentage of rushes by UCF opponents that were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage, the most in the country.

29.4

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	28.1 ppg	5	69
Rushing	128.3 ypg	7	103
Passing	235.3 ypg	5	58
Total	363.6 ypg	6	99
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	19.2 ppg	2	9
Rushing	104.3 ypg	1	6
Passing	194.2 ypg	2	21
Total	298.5 ypg	1	5
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-1	-0.08	7	66

OFFENSE A year ago, UCF's biggest question was who would replace Blake Bortles at quarterback. It took until the beginning of the season, but the staff found the answer in Justin Holman, who overcame early inconsistency to post a solid sophomore campaign, completing 223-of-392 passes for 2,952 yards with 23 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. Now with a year of experience, there's a sense Holman is poised for a breakout season.

Holman will be complemented with experience in the backfield and offensive line. Running back William Stanback missed several games due to nagging injuries, but the junior still was named all-conference for the second consecutive year after rushing for 697 yards and 10 touchdowns.

All but one of the key linemen return, and coaches are hopeful they'll get center/guard Joey Grant back at full strength after offseason shoulder surgery.

The glaring issue is at wide receiver, where UCF must replace virtually every key player from 2014. The departure list includes NFL early entry Breshad Perriman, last year's No. 1 target and a 1,000-yard receiver. The most experienced returnee is Jordan Akins, a former minor league baseball player who caught only 12 passes a year ago. Redshirt freshman Tre'Quan Smith is perhaps the most talented of the group and was Holman's favorite target during the spring. With the shortage of experience, it's quite possible all three of the incoming receiver recruits will suit up to play.

DEFENSE In 2014, UCF finished fifth nationally in total defense (298.5 ypg) and ninth in scoring defense (19.2 ppg), but there are big shoes to fill with seven departing starters. The Knights must replace two of three linebacker starters and will have an entirely new secondary after graduating three seniors and seeing cornerback Jacoby Glenn, the 2014 AAC Co-Defensive Player of the Year, declare early for the NFL Draft.

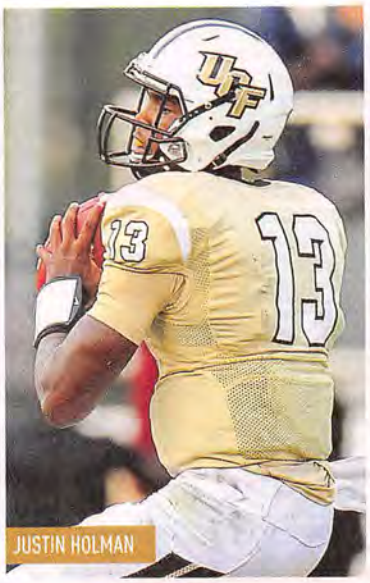
At cornerback, UCF does have several players who have been waiting in the wings, notably juniors Shaquill Griffin and D.J. Killings and a pair of redshirt freshmen, Kyle Gibson and Chris Williams, both of whom were among the most heralded signees of the 2014 recruiting class.

Coaches experimented with a mix of linebacker lineups during the spring, but there were always two constants: Chequan Burkett and Errol Clarke, who shared starting duties a season ago. Domenic Spencer, a senior who's played a backup role his first three seasons, may get his chance to start.

The strength of the unit will be the defensive line, led by senior end Thomas Niles, who finished with a team-leading 7.5 sacks and 13.0 tackles for a loss in 2014. Coaches are confident in the middle with returning seniors Demetris Anderson and Lance McDowdell along with sophomore Jamiyus Pittman.

SPECIALISTS UCF will rely on redshirt freshman Matthew Wright to take over for Shawn Moffitt, perhaps the best kicker in program history. Wright was reliable during the spring and showed a strong leg. Junior Caleb Houston is back at punter after averaging 38.9 yards on 54 punts. Return duties will be a battle that continues into the preseason. Akins has experience, and freshmen Chris Davis and Michael Rogers could factor into the mix.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite losing key players who helped the program clinch a share of its second consecutive American title in 2014, coach George O'Leary emphasizes that it's a reload, not a rebuild. It's hard to argue with O'Leary, who has averaged 9.4 wins over the past five seasons. Though there are question marks at certain positions, there's an expectation that UCF has the talent to again be a contender for the conference title.



JUSTIN HOLMAN

"They're replacing guys across the board, but they have a good plan and they're very well coached."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	88	Jordan Akins (So.)		Cam Stewart (Fr.)	
WR	80	Tre'Quan Smith (Fr.)		Tristan Payton (Fr.)	
WR	20	Taylor Oldham (Jr.)	14	Pete DiNovo (So.)	
LT	66	Aaron Evans (So.)	78	Wyatt Miller (Fr.)	
LG	**61**	**Tarik Cook (Sr.)**	70	Luke Palmer (Fr.)	
C	**73**	**Jason Rae (Jr.)**	75	Tate Hernly (So.)	
RG	**55**	**Joey Grant (Sr.)**	76	Colby Watson (Jr.)	
RT	**79**	**Chavis Dickey (So.)**	68	Charles Sprenkel (So.)	
TE	85	Kevin Miller (Sr.)	87	Cal Bloom (Jr.)	
QB	**13**	**Justin Holman (Jr.)**	2	Nick Patti (Jr.)	
RB	**28**	**William Stanback (Jr.)**	7	Dontravious Wilson (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**69**	**Thomas Niles (Sr.)**	44	Miles Pace (Sr.)	
DT	**94**	**Demetris Anderson (Sr.)**	90	Lance McDowdell (Sr.)	
DT	95	Jamiyus Pittman (So.)	93	Tony Guerad (So.)	
DE	**92**	**Luke Adams (Jr.)**		Monte Taylor (Jr.)	
LB	51	Errol Clarke (Sr.)	53	Demeitre Brim (Jr.)	
LB	50	Domenic Spencer (Sr.)	52	Maurice Russell (Jr.)	
LB	**40**	**Chequan Burkett (So.)**	34	Justin McDonald (Jr.)	
CB	10	Shaquill Griffin (Jr.)	25	Kyle Gibson (Fr.)	
CB	31	Chris Williams (Fr.)	24	D.J. Killings (Jr.)	
SS	46	Jordan Franks (So.)	22	Jared Henry (Jr.)	
FS	21	Drico Johnson (Jr.)	33	Tre Neal (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Matthew Wright (Fr.)	KR	88	Jordan Akins (So.)
P	36	Caleb Houston (Jr.)	PR	5	Chris Davis (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Holman, 392-223-2,952-14, 23 TDs
Rushing: William Stanback, 189 att., 697 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Dontravious Wilson, 13 rec., 56 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Thomas Niles, 49
Sacks: Thomas Niles, 7.5
Interceptions: D.J. Killings, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UCF Athletics

HOUSTON COUGARS

National Forecast: 50
American West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Tom Herman
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Major Applewhite
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Todd Orlando, Craig Naivar
Houston, TX • TDECU Stadium (40,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Tennessee Tech
12 at Louisville
26 Texas State

OCTOBER
3 at Tulsa
8 SMU
16 at Tulane
24 at UCF
31 Vanderbilt

NOVEMBER
7 Cincinnati
14 Memphis
21 at Connecticut
27 Navy

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug.	29	UTSA	L	7-27
Sept.	6	Grambling	W	47-0
Sept.	11	at BYU	L	25-33
Sept.	20	UNLV	W	47-14
Oct.	2	UCF	L	12-17
Oct.	11	at Memphis	W	28-24
Oct.	17	Temple	W	31-10
Nov.	1	at South Florida	W	27-3
Nov.	8	Tulane	L	24-31
Nov.	22	Tulsa	W	38-28
Nov.	28	at SMU	W	35-9
Dec.	6	at Cincinnati	L	31-38
Jan.	2	vs. Pittsburgh #	W	35-34

#Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyreik Gray, RB, Houston, TX
2. Kameron Eloph, OL, Bossier City, LA
3. Terry Mark, WR, Lufkin, TX
4. Joshua Jones, OL, Richmond, TX
5. Tyrell Thompson, DE, Copperas Cove, TX
6. Kevrin Justice, RB, Kilgore, TX
7. Da'cuan Jenkins, LB, Huntsville, TX
8. Jordan Milburn, LB, Galveston, TX
9. Leroy Godfrey, LB, Missouri City, TX
10. Camden Ross, LB, Fort Worth, TX

STAT CORNER

15

Wins the last two seasons by Tony Levine, who was fired after three years as the head coach at Houston.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	29.8 ppg	4	57
Rushing	183.8 ypg	2	42
Passing	230.2 ypg	6	64
Total	414.1 ypg	4	55
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	20.6 ppg	4	15
Rushing	143.3 ypg	4	37
Passing	200.1 ypg	3	27
Total	343.4 ypg	2	20
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+8	+0.62	2	22

OFFENSE By the end of the spring, new coach Tom Herman did not have a ringing endorsement for his offense: "We're awful," he said. "We're not very good." That's to be expected as the Cougars attempt to change the culture of a once high-powered offense that had become stagnant in recent years.

The biggest question is at quarterback, where the competition between incumbent Greg Ward Jr. and Utah transfer Adam Schulz will continue into the fall. Ward went 6–2 after taking over the final eight games, including a 25-point, fourth-quarter comeback over Pittsburgh in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Running back is the most experienced unit on offense with the return of Kenneth Farrow, who rushed for 1,037 yards and led the American Athletic Conference with 15 total touchdowns, and speedster Ryan Jackson. Both are seniors, so the Cougars will need to groom a few young heirs at some point during the season.

The Cougars will be young and inexperienced at receiver because of graduation and the surprising decision of Deontay Greenberry to leave a year early for the NFL Draft. Greenberry had 72 catches last season, more than double any other Cougars receiver. Among returners, only Demarcus Ayers and Steven Dunbar had at least 20 catches. Chance Allen, a transfer from Oregon, should provide immediate help. A rare sighting: The Cougars plan to use a tight end for the first time in eight years, with Tyler McCloskey the leading candidate.

Offensive line is the weak spot, with left tackle Zach Johnson, who is coming off ACL surgery, and right tackle Alex Cooper the only locks to start.

DEFENSE The terminology is different, but that's about the only change as the Cougars plan to roll out the same attacking, hard-hitting, ball-hawking unit that has produced 73 turnovers the past two seasons. New co-coordinator Todd Orlando, who was hired from Utah State, will switch to a 3-4 scheme that mixes up looks and brings pressure from all angles.

The strength is a secondary that returns all four starters, including Adrian McDonald and Trevon Stewart at safety and William Jackson, a shutdown cornerback drawing some NFL Draft buzz.

Defensive end B.J. Singleton is the only returner on the line. He'll be joined by defensive tackle Nick Thurman and end Cameron Malveaux, who were impressive in the spring but have combined to start only one game.

Steven Taylor, coming off a breakout season with four sacks and nine tackles for a loss, could be next in a line of great linebackers at the school following the graduation of Derrick Mathews and Efrem Oliphant. With the shift in schemes, Tyus Bowser will be used in a hybrid outside linebacker/defensive end role.

SPECIALISTS A big improvement is needed in the return game, after the Cougars ranked among the bottom half in the AAC in both punt and kickoff returns. Ayers and Stewart are candidates to handle punts, while Herman would like to use a bigger body, such as Ryan Jackson, on kickoffs. Kyle Bullard tied for third in conference with 16 field goals, while punter Logan Piper showed improvement in the spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS A first-time head coach, Herman brings credibility after winning a national title as the offensive coordinator at Ohio State. He's spent the first several months on the job instilling a toughness that had been lacking in recent years. The Cougars have enough talent to compete in the AAC but will need to figure things out on the offensive line and develop across-the-board depth. A ninth bowl appearance in the last 11 years is certainly within reach.



GREG WARD JR.

"There's good personnel there. Their skill kids are good. I think Tom Herman is walking into a nice situation."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	14	Isaiah Johnson (Fr.)	48	Linell Bonner (So.)
WR	10	**Demarcus Ayers (Jr.)**	82	Romello Brooker (Fr.)
WR	88	Steven Dunbar (So.)	21	Chance Allen (Jr.)
LT	71	Zach Johnson (Sr.)	75	Marcus Oliver (So.)
LG	63	**Ben Dew (Sr.)**	62	Emerald Faletuipapai (Fr.)
C	73	Colton Freeman (Fr.)	65	Carter Wall (Sr.)
RG	79	Josh Thomas (So.)	64	Kyle Marrs (Jr.)
RT	60	**Alex Cooper (Sr.)**	56	Damien Parris (Sr.)
TE	45	Tyler McCloskey (Jr.)	15	Rusty Clark (Jr.)
QB	1	**Greg Ward Jr. (Jr.)**	12	Adam Schulz (Sr.)
RB	35	**Kenneth Farrow (Sr.)**	22	Ryan Jackson (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	93	**B.J. Singleton (Jr.)**	95	Tomme Mark (Sr.)
DT	91	Nick Thurman (So.)	99	Melvin Holland (Sr.)
DE	94	Cameron Malveaux (Jr.)	90	Zach Vaughan (Fr.)
LB	81	Tyus Bowser (Jr.)	12	D'Juan Hines (So.)
LB	9	Matthew Adams (So.)	37	Luke Stice (Sr.)
LB	44	Elandon Roberts (Sr.)	55	Davonte Thomas (Jr.)
LB	41	**Steven Taylor (Jr.)**	36	Nomluis Fruge (So.)
CB	26	**Brandon Wilson (Jr.)**	6	Howard Wilson (So.)
CB	3	**William Jackson (Sr.)**	25	Darius Reed (Jr.)
S	16	**Adrian McDonald (Sr.)**	30	Earl Foster (Sr.)
S	23	**Trevon Stewart (Sr.)**	2	Khalil Williams (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Kyle Bullard (Sr.)	KR	22	Ryan Jackson (Sr.)
P	31	Logan Piper (Sr.)	PR	10	Demarcus Ayers (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Greg Ward Jr., 263-173-2,010-7, 12 TDs
Rushing: Kenneth Farrow, 186 att., 1,037 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Demarcus Ayers, 33 rec., 335 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Steven Taylor, 76
Sacks: Steven Taylor, 4
Interceptions: Adrian McDonald, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

University of Houston

MEMPHIS TIGERS

National Forecast: 59
AAC West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Justin Fuente
Record at School: 17-20 (3 years)
Career Record: 17-20 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Dickey
Defensive Coordinator: Galen Scott
Memphis, TN • Liberty Bowl (59,308)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Missouri State	
12	at Kansas	
19	at Bowling Green	
24	Cincinnati	
OCTOBER		
2	at South Florida	
17	Ole Miss	
23	at Tulsa	
31	Tulane	
NOVEMBER		
7	Navy	
14	at Houston	
21	at Temple	
28	SMU	

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 7-1)

Aug.	30	Austin Peay	W	63-0
Sept.	6	at UCLA	L	35-42
Sept.	20	Middle Tennessee	W	36-17
Sept.	27	at Ole Miss	L	3-24
Oct.	4	at Cincinnati	W	41-14
Oct.	11	Houston	L	24-28
Oct.	25	at SMU	W	48-10
Oct.	31	Tulsa	W	40-20
Nov.	7	at Temple	W	16-13
Nov.	15	at Tulane	W	38-7
Nov.	22	South Florida	W	31-20
Nov.	29	Connecticut	W	41-10
Dec.	22	vs. BYU #	(ot) W	55-48

#Miami Beach Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jae'Lon Oglesby, WR, Central, SC*
2. Jamarius Henderson, RB, Ozark, AL
3. Brady Davis, QB, Starkville, MS
4. Jared Gentry, DL, Opelika, AL
5. Drew Kyser, OL, Opelika, AL
6. Joseph Prevost, LB, Marrero, LA
7. Emmanuel Cooper, DE, Arkadelphia, AR
8. Tyler Charrette, DB, Martinez, CA*
9. Tre Hamilton, WR, Humble, TX
10. Darrell Henderson, RB, Batesville, MS

*junior college transfer

Memphis' field position margin in 2014, second in the country. The Tigers were devastating on special teams and efficient on D.

STAT CORNER

+9.2

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	36.2 ppg	1	21
Rushing	190.5 ypg	1	38
Passing	236.6 ypg	4	56
Total	427.1 ypg	3	46
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	19.5 ppg	3	11
Rushing	121.5 ypg	3	19
Passing	228.0 ypg	6	62
Total	349.5 ypg	4	27
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+11	+0.85	1	11

OFFENSE When he named Paxton Lynch, a 6'7" freshman, his starting quarterback before the start of the 2013 season, Memphis coach Justin Fuente encountered mild criticism. Fuente never wavered in his belief that Lynch could develop into one of the American Athletic Conference's top quarterbacks. After struggling his freshman season, Lynch blossomed last fall. He passed for 3,031 yards — becoming only the third Tigers quarterback to surpass 3,000 yards in a season — to lead the program to its first 10-win season since 1938 and its first bowl game since 2008.

At running back, the Tigers lost veteran Brandon Hayes, who finished just shy of 1,000 yards, but return Doroland Dorceus, who missed most of the season and spring practice with a knee injury. Sophomore Jarvis Cooper is a punishing 250-pounder who possesses deceptive speed. He should be a first option in goal-line situations. Junior Sam Craft is a multi-purpose talent who could line up in the backfield or at receiver.

Memphis returns leading receiver Mose Frazier, more efficient than flashy operating out of the slot. In all, four of the team's top six receivers are back, including tight end Alan Cross, who was a first-team all-league selection last year.

DEFENSE One of the league's top defensive units was hit hard by losses as it must replace eight starters. Plus, highly regarded coordinator Barry Odom left to return to Missouri, his alma mater, in the same role. Associate head coach and linebackers coach Galen Scott steps into Odom's position.

Scott has to find three new starting linebackers, three new starting defensive backs and two new starting defensive linemen. Cornerback Bobby McCain was a four-year starter, and defensive end Martin Ifedi was the school's career sacks leader. Linebacker Tank Jakes was the league's co-Defensive Player of the Year.

In their places, Scott could insert Dontrell Nelson at cornerback, Latarius Brady at defensive end and Wynton McManis at linebacker. All played extensively as reserves with Nelson returning an interception 58 yards for a touchdown.

The top defensive returnee will be end/linebacker Jackson Dillon, a rangy, hard-hitting player who forced two fumbles and had nine tackles for a loss. Nelson and junior Chauncey Lanier are the leading candidates to start at cornerback. Free safety Reggis Ball is the lone returning starter in the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Memphis returns the league's top kicker and reigning conference Special Teams Player of Year in Jake Elliott, whose season included a dramatic 54-yard, game-tying field goal in the first overtime of the Tigers' win over BYU in the Miami Beach Bowl. He has made 37-of-50 field goals in his first two seasons, including the game-winner in the closing seconds at Temple last year that made the Tigers bowl-eligible. The punting game is solid behind sophomores Spencer Smith and Nick Jacobs. On kickoffs, the Tigers will attempt to snap what is believed to be nation's longest drought. Memphis has not returned a kickoff for a touchdown since 1996.

FINAL ANALYSIS After going 10–3 last season and claiming a share of the AAC title, the Tigers are poised to repeat those successes. With Lynch at quarterback, the Tigers will possess a potent offense, one capable of overcoming whatever a rebuilding defense allows. A running game featuring two physical, punishing backs could be potent. Defensively, the Tigers will have to find replacements for eight players, including two — McCain and Ifedi — who will be playing in the NFL. How quickly the secondary develops in a pass-oriented conference could determine the team's ability to repeat as league champs.



PAXTON LYNCH

"That coaching staff does a great job. I like the quarterback (Paxton Lynch) a lot. He's a winner. He does a nice job."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	Anthony Miller (So.)	**87**	**Tevin Jones (Sr.)**	
WR	18	Roderick Proctor (So.)	89	Phil Mayhue (So.)	
WR	**5**	**Mose Frazier (Sr.)**	11	Sam Craft (Jr.)	
LT	**77**	**Taylor Fallin (Sr.)**	65	Christopher Roberson (Jr.)	
LG	**63**	**Tyler Uselton (Sr.)**	72	Trevon Tate (Fr.)	
C	**71**	**Gabe Kuhn (So.)**	70	Micah Simmons (Sr.)	
RG	64	Zach Collins (So.)	75	Michael Stannard (Jr.)	
RT	74	Ryan Mack (Sr.)	66	Tony Mays II (Jr.)	
TE	**40**	**Alan Cross (Sr.)**	80	Daniel Montiel (Jr.)	
QB	**12**	**Paxton Lynch (Jr.)**	15	Jason Stewart (Sr.)	
RB	22	Doroland Dorceus (So.)	25	Jarvis Cooper (So.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	14	Latarius Brady (Jr.)	13	DeMarco Montgomery (Jr.)
NT	58	Donald Pennington (Jr.)	93	Cortez Crosby (So.)
DE	**48**	**Ernest Suttles (So.)**	91	Ricky Hunter (Sr.)
LB	**34**	**Jackson Dillon (Jr.)**	6	Genard Avery (So.)
LB	16	Wynton McManis (Sr.)	38	Tyler Charrette (Jr.)
LB	53	Leonard Pegues (Sr.)	30	Shareef White (So.)
LB	45	Noah Robinson (So.)	50	Lenard Harden (Jr.)
CB	10	Dontrell Nelson (Jr.)	9	Jamil Collins (So.)
CB	12	Chauncey Lanier (Jr.)	19	Ty Northern (Jr.)
S	**39**	**Reggis Ball (Sr.)**	27	Dion Witty (Sr.)
S	32	DaShaughn Terry (Jr.)	31	Anthony Young (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Jake Elliott (Jr.)	KR	11	Sam Craft (Jr.)
P	36	Spencer Smith (So.)	PR	18	Roderick Proctor (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Paxton Lynch, 413-259-3,031-9, 22 TDs
Rushing: Jarvis Cooper, 75 att., 378 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Mose Frazier, 47 rec., 506 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jackson Dillon, 43
Sacks: Genard Avery, 5.0
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Memphis SID

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN

National Forecast: 54
American West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Ken Niumatalolo
Record at School: 57-35 (7 years)
Career Record: 57-35 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ivin Jasper
Defensive Coordinator: Buddy Green
Annapolis, MD
Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Colgate
19	East Carolina
26	at Connecticut
OCTOBER	
3	Air Force
10	at Notre Dame
24	Tulane
31	South Florida
NOVEMBER	
7	at Memphis
14	SMU
21	at Tulsa
27	at Houston
DECEMBER	
12	vs. Army #

#Philadelphia, PA

2014 RESULTS (8-5)

Aug.	30	vs. Ohio State %	L	17-34
Sept.	6	at Temple	W	31-24
Sept.	13	at Texas State	W	35-21
Sept.	20	Rutgers	L	24-31
Sept.	27	Western Kentucky	L	27-36
Oct.	4	at Air Force	L	21-30
Oct.	11	VMI	W	51-14
Oct.	25	San Jose State	W	41-31
Nov.	1	vs. Notre Dame $	L	39-49
Nov.	15	Georgia Southern	W	52-19
Nov.	28	at South Alabama	W	42-40
Dec.	13	vs. Army %	W	17-10
Dec.	23	vs. San Diego State #	W	17-16

%Baltimore $Landover #Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Trey Walker, RB, Texarkana, TX
2. Mike Martin, RB, Pine Bush, NY
3. Andrew Wood, OL, Lebanon, TN
4. Taylor Jackson, WR, Texarkana, TX
5. Elijah Jones, DB, Upland, CA
6. Stephen Satchell, OL, Thompson's Station, TN
7. Jarvis Polu, DL, Las Vegas, NV
8. Hudson Sullivan, LB, Nokesville, VA
9. Bennett Moehring, PK, Bentonville, AR
10. Chris Von Hendrix, WR, Pepper Pike, OH

Change in Navy's field position margin from 2013 (+5.8) to 2014 (-1.4). Sketchy punting and punt returns were big culprits.

STAT CORNER

-7.1

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	31.8 ppg	43
Rushing	338.1 ypg	2
Passing	81.4 ypg	124
Total	419.5 ypg	50
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	27.3 ppg	70
Rushing	198.6 ypg	94
Passing	205.2 ypg	31
Total	403.8 ypg	70
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-4	-0.31	89

OFFENSE Quarterback Keenan Reynolds is looking to cap a remarkable career with a strong senior season. The Tennessee native already owns a slew of school records and ranks first among quarterbacks in NCAA history with 64 rushing touchdowns. A rare fourth-year starter in Navy's triple-option offense, Reynolds boasts a 21–11 record.

Reynolds will have plenty of proven weapons at his disposal, with senior fullback Chris Swain, senior slot back DeBrandon Sanders and junior wide receiver Jamir Tillman leading the way. Swain, a powerfully built 245-pounder bruiser, is coming off a strong 2014 campaign in which he displayed vastly improved vision while rushing for 693 yards. Sanders, a 5'7", 160-pound jitterbug, has averaged 8.0 yards per rush and 19.3 yards per reception during his career. Tillman, a smooth and fluid 6'4", 206-pounder, emerged as a big-play threat in 2014.

Navy must rebuild its offensive line after graduating three starters. Left guard E.K. Binns, entering his third season as a starter, takes over as the leader of the unit.

DEFENSE The Midshipmen suffered significant losses on the defensive side of the ball, most notably end Paul Quessenberry, linebackers Jordan Drake and Chris Johnson and safety Parrish Gaines. That quartet will not be easy to replace.

Senior nose guard Bernie Sarra is one of the strongest players on the team and has done an outstanding job of holding the point of attack since moving into the starting lineup as a sophomore. Right end Will Anthony was the breakout performer of 2014, leading the team with 11.0 tackles for a loss.

Navy's 3-4 scheme requires the inside linebackers to make the majority of the tackles, and Daniel Gonzales stepped up as a sophomore, ranking second on the squad with 86. He tied for the team lead with three interceptions. Three of the four linebackers will be first-time starters, although the speedy and rangy William Tuider has seen significant action in a reserve role.

Junior Brendon Clements has started 20 straight games at cornerback and displayed superb ball instincts along with sure tackling. The Miami native already has 107 career tackles and eight pass breakups. Quincy Adams started all 13 games at the opposite corner and earned honorable mention All-Independent honors after finishing as Navy's third-leading tackler. Strong safety Kwazel Bertrand has started 16 games over the previous two seasons.

SPECIALISTS Navy must replace one of the finest punters in program history in Pablo Beltran, a four-year starter who ranks second in school history with a 41.8-yard average. Senior Gavin Jernigan, the backup the previous two seasons, will get first crack at the job. Austin Grebe took over as the starting placekicker in the seventh game of last season and was impressive, hitting 6-of-6 on field goals and 33-of-33 on extra points.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a new era for Navy, which joins the American Athletic Conference following more than a century as an Independent. The Midshipmen own a 34–27–1 record against current AAC members and have regularly played schools such as SMU, East Carolina and Tulane.

Veteran coach Ken Niumatalolo says capturing the conference championship has now been added to the annual goals of beating service academy rivals Army and Air Force to secure the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and qualifying for a bowl game.

"I think joining a conference is something we had to do and will be good for the program over the long haul," Niumatalolo says. "However, there is a lot of apprehension and nervousness because there are so many unknowns."



KEENAN REYNOLDS

"It scares you to death to play these guys because you really only have three days to practice for it."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	4	**Jamir Tillman (Jr.)**	89	Thomas Wilson (Sr.)	
WR	87	Brandon Colon (So.)	83	Marc Meier (Sr.)	
LT	79	Blake Copeland (Jr.)	61	Brandon Greene (Sr.)	
LG	57	**E.K. Binns (Sr.)**	72	Adam West (Jr.)	
C	63	Blaze Ryder (Sr.)	70	Maurice Morris (Jr.)	
RG	60	Ben Tamburello (Sr.)	71	Evan Martin (So.)	
RT	65	**Joey Gaston (Sr.)**	50	Robert Lindsey (So.)	
QB	19	**Keenan Reynolds (Sr.)**	18	Tago Smith (Jr.)	
SB	25	Demond Brown (Sr.)	28	Dishan Romine (Jr.)	
SB	21	DeBrandon Sanders (Sr.)	20	Calvin Cass Jr. (Jr.)	
FB	37	Chris Swain (Sr.)	32	Quentin Ezell (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	52	Amos Mason (Jr.)	47	A.K. Akpunku (Sr.)	
DT	77	**Bernard Sarra (Sr.)**	68	Patrick Forrestal (Jr.)	
DE	90	**Will Anthony (Sr.)**	99	Sean Reaver (Sr.)	
LB	38	William Tuider (Jr.)	48	Josiah Powell (Jr.)	
LB	82	Micah Thomas (So.)	80	Myles Davenport (So.)	
LB	58	**Daniel Gonzales (Jr.)**	54	Tyler Goble (Sr.)	
LB	85	D.J. Palmore (So.)	55	Ted Colburn (Jr.)	
CB	5	**Quincy Adams (Sr.)**	7	Shelley White (Sr.)	
CB	1	**Brendon Clements (Jr.)**	9	Myer Krah (Sr.)	
SS	17	**Kwazel Bertrand (Sr.)**	26	Daiquan Thomasson (Jr.)	
FS	15	Lorentez Barbour (Sr.)	3	Brandon Jones (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Austin Grebe (Sr.)	KR	25	Demond Brown (Sr.)
P	16	Gavin Jernigan (Sr.)	PR	21	DeBrandon Sanders (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keenan Reynolds, 111-52-843-3, 6 TDs
Rushing: Keenan Reynolds, 250 att., 1,191 yds., 23 TDs
Receiving: Jamir Tillman, 20 rec., 386 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Daniel Gonzales, 86
Sacks: Will Anthony, 2.5
Interceptions: Daniel Gonzales, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Navy SID

SMU MUSTANGS

National Forecast: 102
American West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Chad Morris
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Craddock
Defensive Coordinator: Van Malone
Dallas, TX • Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Baylor
12 North Texas
19 at TCU
26 James Madison

OCTOBER
3 East Carolina
8 at Houston
24 at South Florida
31 Tulsa

NOVEMBER
6 Temple
14 at Navy
21 Tulane
28 at Memphis

2014 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug.	31	at Baylor	L	0-45
Sept.	6	at North Texas	L	6-43
Sept.	20	Texas A&M	L	6-58
Sept.	27	TCU	L	0-56
Oct.	4	at East Carolina	L	24-45
Oct.	18	Cincinnati	L	3-41
Oct.	25	Memphis	L	10-48
Nov.	8	at Tulsa	L	28-38
Nov.	15	South Florida	L	13-14
Nov.	22	at UCF	L	7-53
Nov.	28	Houston	L	9-35
Dec.	6	at Connecticut	W	27-20

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Proche, WR, Dallas, TX
2. Ben Hicks, QB, Waco TX
3. Kevin Thomas, WR, DeSoto, TX
4. Michael Scott, DE, Irving, TX
5. Hunter Herndon, TE, Forney, TX
6. Xavier Castille, WR, Rockwell, TX
7. Chris Biggurs, DE, Coppell, TX
8. Xavier Jones, RB, Spring, TX
9. Bryce Wilds, OT, Freeport, TX
10. Marcus McNeil, OG, San Antonio, TX

STAT CORNER

-363

SMU's scoring margin was minus-363 in 2014. That was worse than their first year back from death penalty (-312 in 1989).

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	11.1 ppg	11	125
Rushing	100.3 ypg	11	118
Passing	168.7 ypg	11	112
Total	269.0 ypg	11	124
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	41.3 ppg	11	124
Rushing	235.8 ypg	11	114
Passing	263.7 ypg	10	106
Total	499.4 ypg	11	119
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-14	-1.17	11	120

OFFENSE Coach Chad Morris is confident that junior Matt Davis can operate his smash-mouth spread offense. After all, Morris recruited the dual-threat quarterback who signed with Texas A&M out of high school, while he was Clemson's offensive coordinator.

Davis managed to stimulate a lifeless offense last year. Taking over the starting job the last six games, he finished the season as the team's top rusher. His passing skills should improve in the new scheme, which employs two running backs and a tight end and relies more on runs between the tackles and vertical passes. The quick tempo of this no-huddle formation can keep defenses guessing when operated properly. With redshirt freshman Daniel Gresham, sophomore Darius Durall, senior K.C. Nlemchi and junior Prescott Line at running back, Morris has a variety of skills from which to choose.

SMU did not use a tight end in June Jones' run-and-shoot, but Jeremiah Gaines (6'2", 240) has the size and hands to step in. The receiving corps, led by senior returning starter Darius Joseph (54 catches for 379 yards), needs more consistent play from Nate Halverson, Cedric Lancaster, Deion Sanders Jr. and Ryheem Malone. Freshmen Kevin Thomas and Xavier Castille could also make an impact.

DEFENSE Under new defensive coordinator Van Malone, who coached defensive backs at Oklahoma State, the Mustangs have switched to a 4-2-5 scheme. This should allow SMU to emphasize speed on the edge and in the secondary while avoiding physical mismatches up front.

Malone hopes a more aggressive approach will put players in position to create turnovers. The Mustangs ranked 120th nationally with a minus-14 turnover margin last year.

Shakiel Randolph, who has the look of an NFL cornerback at 6'4", 216 pounds, should be a good fit in the new Star hybrid role. He played safety one year, switched to cornerback because of injuries last season and has added significant muscle. Jonathan Yenga, fourth in tackles last season, has 15.5 tackles for a loss the last two years.

Zach Wood, who had a team-high four sacks last year, will anchor the line. Mason Gentry (6'6", 292) has the size to be a force. The development of Elie Nabushosi, Zelt Minor and Spencer Hollie should produce a more consistent attack by committee with Andrew McCleneghen, Cameron Smith and Nick Reed. True freshman Chris Biggurs is the top newcomer.

SPECIALISTS Sanders Jr., second-team all-conference as a kick returner last season, set school records for single-game return yards (203) and returns (10). As a senior in high school, kicker Josh Williams hit a 71-yard field goal during practice. Range shouldn't be an issue.

FINAL ANALYSIS Bringing an up-tempo pace to all facets of SMU football, Morris seems the ideal candidate to rebuild the program from the ashes of 1–11. And things may not be quite as dire for the Mustangs as they appeared last season. "It was a tough deal with the interim coach coming in at mid-year and they weren't winning," says one AAC assistant. "I thought they were probably better than their record indicated; it was just a bad situation."

That situation has certainly improved with the high-profile hire of Morris. Having spent 16 years as a Texas high school coach, Morris has used his ties to repair recruiting relationships with coaches in the state, particularly in Dallas-Forth Worth. The turnaround may take some time, but Morris has SMU fans thinking big again.



DARIUS JOSEPH

"Chad Morris will do good things. He'll find a way to make it happen, and I expect they'll get going quickly."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	16	Courtland Sutton (Fr.)	9	Shelby Walker (So.)	
WR	18	**Darius Joseph (Sr.)**	1	Arrius Holleman (Sr.)	
WR	13	Ryheem Malone (So.)	2	Deion Sanders Jr. (Jr.)	
LT	71	**Chauncey Briggs (Jr.)**	74	Christian Chamagua (Jr.)	
LG	67	**Daniel McCarty (Jr.)**	62	Travis Fister (So.)	
C	52	**Taylor Lasecki (Sr.)**	51	William Barns (So.)	
RG	58	Taylor Reich (Sr.)	79	Seaver Myers (Jr.)	
RT	75	**Kris Weeks (Sr.)**	78	Bozidar Antunovic (Sr.)	
TE	84	Jeremiah Gaines (Jr.)	45	Dylan Dickman (Jr.)	
QB	4	Matt Davis (Jr.)	8	Ben Hicks (Fr.)	
RB	42	Prescott Line (Jr.)	21	Darius Durall (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	95	Andrew McCleneghen (Sr.)	30	**Robert Seals (Sr.)**	
NT	93	**Mason Gentry (So.)**	97	Nick Reed (Jr.)	
DT	90	**Zach Wood (Sr.)**	92	Zelt Minor (Jr.)	
DE	99	Justin Lawler (So.)	34	Jarvis Pruitt (Jr.)	
MLB	48	Anthony Rhone (So.)	5	Nick Horton (Jr.)	
WLB	1	**Jonathan Yenga (Sr.)**	44	Jackson Mitchell (Jr.)	
STAR	28	Shakiel Randolph (Sr.)	59	Kyran Mitchell (Fr.)	
CB	9	**Horace Richardson (Jr.)**	10	Ajee Montes (Jr.)	
CB	4	Jesse Montgomery (So.)	18	Will Jeanlys (Fr.)	
SS	26	Troy Castle (Sr.)	20	A.J. Justice (Jr.)	
FS	29	**Darrion Richardson (Jr.)**	15	Jordan Wyatt (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Josh Williams (Fr.)	KR	2	Deion Sanders Jr. (Jr.)
P	35	Jackson Koonce (So.)	PR	5	Cedric Lancaster (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Garrett Krstich, 181-99-855-7, 2 TDs
Rushing: Matt Davis, 108 att., 613 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Darius Joseph, 54 rec., 379 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Darrion Richardson, 69
Sacks: Zach Wood, 4.0
Interceptions: Horace Richardson, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP Photo/John F. Rhodes

TULANE GREEN WAVE

National Forecast: 104
American West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Curtis Johnson
Record at School: 12-25 (3 years)
Career Record: 12-25 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Price
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Jason Rollins, Lionel Washington
New Orleans, LA • Yulman Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
3	Duke
12	at Georgia Tech
19	Maine
OCTOBER	
3	UCF
10	at Temple
16	Houston
24	at Navy
31	at Memphis
NOVEMBER	
7	Connecticut
14	at Army
21	at SMU
28	Tulsa

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug.	28	at Tulsa	(ot) L	31-38
Sept.	6	Georgia Tech	L	21-38
Sept.	13	SE Louisiana	W	35-20
Sept.	20	at Duke	L	13-47
Sept.	27	at Rutgers	L	6-31
Oct.	11	Connecticut	W	12-3
Oct.	18	at UCF	L	13-20
Oct.	31	Cincinnati	L	14-38
Nov.	8	at Houston	W	31-24
Nov.	15	Memphis	L	7-38
Nov.	22	at East Carolina	L	6-34
Dec.	6	Temple	L	3-10

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Leeward Brown, OL, Miami, FL
2. John Washington, DT, West Monroe, LA
3. Nigel Anderson, RB, La Place, LA
4. Darius Williams, WR, New Orleans, LA
5. Keeyon Smart, OT, Baton Rouge, LA
6. Malik Eugene, ATH, Lafayette, LA
7. Andrew Hicks, ATH, Belle Chasse, LA
8. Devin Glenn, RB, New Orleans, LA
9. Jeremie Francis, DB, New Orleans, LA
10. Brian Webb, DT, New Orleans, LA

STAT CORNER

101.5

Tulane's passer rating in 2014, which ranked 125th in the nation. The Wave also ranked 117th in INTs thrown (18).

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	16.0 ppg	9	121
Rushing	145.5 ypg	6	91
Passing	201.3 ypg	7	85
Total	346.8 ypg	7	107
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.4 ppg	8	79
Rushing	157.9 ypg	5	50
Passing	229.9 ypg	7	67
Total	387.8 ypg	7	55
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+3	+0.25	3	45

OFFENSE Strong-armed sophomore quarterback Tanner Lee is the clear starter but will need to improve significantly after a rough redshirt freshman debut season in which Tulane struggled across the board offensively. The Green Wave ranked 107th in total offense and 121st in points, failing to score more than 14 in eight of their last nine games.

Lee was part of the problem, tossing more interceptions (14) than touchdowns (12). He threw for 262 yards and three scores in a 38–31 loss to Tulsa in the opener but cooled down quickly as defenses confused him and his freshman-laden receiving corps.

Almost all of Lee's top targets are sophomores who learned on the job as true freshmen. Wide receiver Teddy Veal led the Green Wave with 40 catches for 381 yards. Tight ends Charles Jones and Trey Scott figured heavily in the offense during spring practice.

The running game, which ranked 91st nationally, should be a strength if it receives better blocking from a line that returns four starters. The three-headed backfield of speedy Sherman Badie (688 yards, 5.7 per carry), power runner Lazedrick Thompson (533 yards, four touchdowns) and well-rounded Dontrell Hilliard is one of the best in the American Athletic Conference. Badie broke off three runs of more than 70 yards.

DEFENSE With several key starters returning, Tulane should be closer to its form from 2013 (when it ranked 22nd nationally in yards allowed) than last season (when it dipped to 55th). The key will be replacing safety Sam Scofield, who led the team in tackles the past two years, and cornerback Lorenzo Doss, who declared for the draft after picking off 15 passes in three seasons.

The talent is there. Darion Monroe, a four-star recruit in 2012, returns for his fourth year as a starter at safety. Sophomore cornerback Parry Nickerson outplayed Doss last season, making 51 tackles with a team-high six interceptions.

Diminutive linebacker Nico Marley (5'9", 200), the Conference USA Co-Freshman of the Year in 2013, had no letdown as a sophomore, registering a team-best 13.5 tackles for a loss. He galvanizes everyone around him to play harder.

The Wave are solid at tackle, where junior All-AAC candidate Tanzel Smart (47 stops) and sophomore Sean Wilson are entering their second year as a tandem. End is a concern. Royce LaFrance has all-conference ability but was up and down as a junior before missing spring practice for academic reasons.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game was a debacle last year, and correcting those woes is priority No. 1 for new special teams coach Doug Lichtenberger. First, he has to find a reliable kicker after the Wave missed half of their 16 field goals. Walk-on Trevor Simms has unlimited range but questionable accuracy. Sophomore Andrew DiRocco missed a potential game-winning 21-yarder in the opener and never recovered. Incoming freshman Zach Block is rated more highly as a punter than placekicker. Badie could boost a kickoff return unit that ranked second-to-last nationally. Punter Peter Piceralli is coming off a poor year (37.8-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS The pieces are in place for an uptick in coach Curtis Johnson's fourth season, but everything needs to go right after Tulane struggled with the move from Conference USA to the stronger AAC. Lee needs to mature quickly and get a better rapport with his young receivers. The running backs, whom Johnson considers NFL-caliber, need better blocking. The defense needs to apply more pressure on quarterbacks after having just 22 sacks last year. And, maybe most significantly, the Wave have to shore up their kicking game. The struggles there sapped confidence from the entire team.



PARRY NICKERSON

"Curtis Johnson has done a good job getting them going. They have more athletes than they did in Conference USA."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	Teddy Veal (So.)	86	Leondre James (So.)	
WR	5	Terren Encalade (So.)	8	Devon Breaux (Jr.)	
LT	**68**	**Arturo Uzdavinis (Sr.)**	72	John Leglue (Fr.)	
LG	**61**	**Colton Hanson (Jr.)**	71	Jason Stewart (So.)	
C	**66**	**Nathan Shienle (Jr.)**	51	Junior Diaz (Fr.)	
RG	**75**	**Chris Taylor (Jr.)**	78	Todd Jacquet (Jr.)	
RT	79	Kenneth Santa Marina (So.)	74	Devon Johnson (Fr.)	
TE	84	Charles Jones (So.)	83	Trey Scott (So.)	
QB	**12**	**Tanner Lee (So.)**	1	Devin Powell (Jr.)	
FB	33	Lazedrick Thompson (Jr.)	46	Sergio Medina (Jr.)	
RB	**3**	**Sherman Badie (So.)**	26	Dontrell Hilliard (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**48**	**Royce LaFrance (Sr.)**	90	Robert Kennedy (Fr.)	
DT	**77**	**Tanzel Smart (Jr.)**	99	Calvin Thomas (Jr.)	
DT	**94**	**Sean Wilson (So.)**	96	Corey Redwine (Sr.)	
DE	87	Ade Aruna (So.)	92	Daren Williams (So.)	
LB	**20**	**Nico Marley (Jr.)**	13	William Townsend (So.)	
LB	52	Eric Thomas (Jr.)	**7**	**Edward Williams (Jr.)**	
CB	**17**	**Parry Nickerson (So.)**	32	Stephon Lofton (Fr.)	
CB	23	Richard Allen (Jr.)	21	Donnie Lewis (Fr.)	
S	34	Jarrod Franklin (So.)	37	Rene Fleury (So.)	
S	**2**	**Darion Monroe (Sr.)**	30	Tristan Cooper (So.)	
S	10	Leonard Davis (Jr.)	47	Carlton Williams (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Trevor Simms (Sr.)	KR	3	Sherman Badie (So.)
P	31	Peter Piceretti (Sr.)	PR	9	Teddy Veal (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tanner Lee, 336-185-1,962-14, 12 TDs
Rushing: Sherman Badie, 121 att., 688 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Teddy Veal, 40 rec., 381 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Nico Marley, 82
Sacks: Royce LaFrance, 6.0
Interceptions: Parry Nickerson, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tulane Athletics

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE

National Forecast: 106
American West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Philip Montgomery
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Sterlin Gilbert, Matt Mattox
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Bill Young, Brian Norwood
Tulsa, OK • H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Florida Atlantic
12 at New Mexico
19 at Oklahoma

OCTOBER
3 Houston
10 UL Monroe
17 at East Carolina
23 Memphis
31 at SMU

NOVEMBER
7 UCF
14 at Cincinnati
21 Navy
28 at Tulane

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

Aug.	28	Tulane	(ot)	W	38-31
Sept.	6	Oklahoma		L	7-52
Sept.	13	at Florida Atlantic		L	21-50
Sept.	27	Texas State	(ot)	L	34-37
Oct.	4	at Colorado State		L	17-42
Oct.	11	at Temple		L	24-35
Oct.	18	South Florida		L	30-38
Oct.	31	at Memphis		L	20-40
Nov.	8	SMU		W	38-28
Nov.	14	at UCF		L	7-31
Nov.	22	at Houston		L	28-38
Nov.	28	East Carolina		L	32-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chad President, QB, Temple, TX
2. McKinley Whitfield, ATH, Spiro, OK
3. Reggie Robinson, S, Cleburne, TX
4. Javon Thomas, RB, Texarkana, TX
5. Will Hefley, QB, Little Rock, AR
6. Michael Anderson, DE, Owasso, OK
7. Tristan Wyatt, OT, Shawnee, OK
8. Trevis Gipson, DE, Cedar Hill, TX
9. David Richardson, CB, Rockwall, TX
10. Cristian Williams, S, Dallas, TX

STAT CORNER

39.3

Tulsa allowed 39.3 points per game in 2014, devastating for a unit that allowed just 23.6 per game in 2012's C-USA title run.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	24.7 ppg	6	91
Rushing	147.8 ypg	5	87
Passing	264.7 ypg	3	36
Total	412.5 ypg	5	56
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	39.3 ppg	10	119
Rushing	214.7 ypg	10	108
Passing	272.1 ypg	11	113
Total	486.8 ypg	10	114
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-8	-0.67	9	111

OFFENSE Philip Montgomery has long been an admirer of Tulsa football. The former Baylor offensive coordinator knew about the school's recent history of conference championships and bowl triumphs. So when the university approached him to be a head coach who could revitalize both an offense and a fanbase, he was anxious for the challenge.

"There's a ton of positive energy around this campus and the community," says Montgomery, who inherits a program with only five wins over the past two seasons. "They've won conference championships here. They've won a lot of games, and we want to help get them back to that level."

Points are necessary in the high-scoring American Athletic Conference, and at Tulsa, everything will focus on the quarterback. Junior Dane Evans and true freshman Chad President, an early enrollee, spent the spring learning Montgomery's system. Evans ranked second in the American in passing yards per game (258.5) in 2014. President, a former Baylor commit, ran a similar offense during a prolific high school career.

"We put a lot of pressure on our quarterback … those guys have to have a great understanding of what we do," Montgomery says.

The quarterback will have weapons at running back and wide receiver. Senior Zack Langer was second in the conference in rushing yards (80.1 ypg). The passing attack will welcome back wide receiver Keevan Lucas, a junior who had 101 receptions, 1,219 yards and 11 touchdowns last season. Senior Keyarris Garrett (47 catches, 698 yards, five touchdowns) will be a key target as well.

"We have good core depth," Montgomery says. "We just need to put them in position to make plays and be successful in what we do."

DEFENSE Veteran coach Bill Young — Tulsa's new defensive co-coordinator — has plenty of work to do. He inherits a unit that ranked 114th in the nation in total defense (486.8 ypg) and 119th in scoring defense (39.3 ppg). The Golden Hurricane allowed fewer than 30 points only once last season, in a 38–28 win over SMU.

There may be no quick fixes, but Young has a foundation upon which to build. The defensive line returns All-AAC second-team end Derrick Alexander, who had a team-high 12 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks last year, and tackle Derrick Luetjen, who has started 24 straight games.

Linebacker Craig Suits was an FWAA Freshman All-American with 81 tackles, and he'll be joined by Trent Martin, a junior who had eight tackles for a loss in only nine games last season.

The secondary is anchored by leading tackler Michael Mudoh, a hard-hitting safety with 113 stops last season.

SPECIALISTS Punter Dalton Parks averaged 42 yards per boot last season. From that point, all jobs will be open. Preston Soper and Redford Jones are getting the first looks at kicker. D'Angelo Brewer has experience with kickoff returns, and Conner Floyd took back punts, but Montgomery indicates that many different players will be looked at to contribute at the spot.

FINAL ANALYSIS Montgomery's hiring will bring a much-needed boost to the Tulsa football program, which turned stagnant after winning the 2012 Conference USA championship. The offense should profit from the new system, which will get the football into the hands of many different playmakers. The Hurricane's most important fix will be on defense. Stopping teams may once again be difficult for Tulsa, which will place the emphasis on the offense to score points. Patience will be important — for both the coaching staff and fans — during 2015's rebuilding season.


DERRICK ALEXANDER

"There weren't many teams we felt like we had significantly better personnel than, but I did that game."

– An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	1	**Keyarris Garrett (Sr.)**	29	Justin Hobbs (Fr.)	
WR	88	**Josh Atkinson (Jr.)**	84	Nigel Carter (So.)	
WR	80	Conner Floyd (Sr.)	27	Bishop Louie (So.)	
WR	2	**Keevan Lucas (Jr.)**	8	Terrance Ivery (Fr.)	
LT	66	Evan Plagg (So.)	77	Isaac Johnson (Fr.)	
LG	76	**Garrett Stafford (Sr.)**	72	Tyler Bowling (Fr.)	
C	57	**Dylan Foxworth (Jr.)**	74	Chandler Miller (Fr.)	
RG	63	**Chris Wallace (Jr.)**	73	Rob Boyd (So.)	
RT	78	**Blake Belcher (Jr.)**	58	Willie Wright (Fr.)	
QB	9	**Dane Evans (Jr.)**	10	Chad President (Fr.)	
RB	4	D'Angelo Brewer (So.)	25	Ramadi Warren (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	54	**Derrick Alexander (Sr.)**	85	Kolton Shindelar (So.)
DT	70	**Jerry Uwaezuoke (Jr.)**	94	Michael Rios (Fr.)
DT	99	Derrick Luetjen (Sr.)	95	Hayden Carman (Jr.)
DE	98	Jeremy Smith (So.)	90	Frankie Davis (So.)
LB	38	Matt Linscott (Jr.)	10	Shawn Norman (Jr.)
LB	40	**Trent Martin (Jr.)**	44	Petera Wilson (So.)
LB	28	**Craig Suits (So.)**	42	Zik Asiebgu (Sr.)
CB	2	Kerwin Thomas (So.)	10	Brodrick Umblance (So.)
CB	6	Darrell Williams (Sr.)	23	Will Barrow (Jr.)
S	1	**Michael Mudoh (Sr.)**	22	Jeremy Brady (Jr.)
S	13	Jordan Mitchell (So.)	15	Sam Gottsch (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Redford Jones (So.)	KR	4	D'Angelo Brewer (So.)
P	26	Dalton Parks (Jr.)	PR	80	Conner Floyd (Sr.)

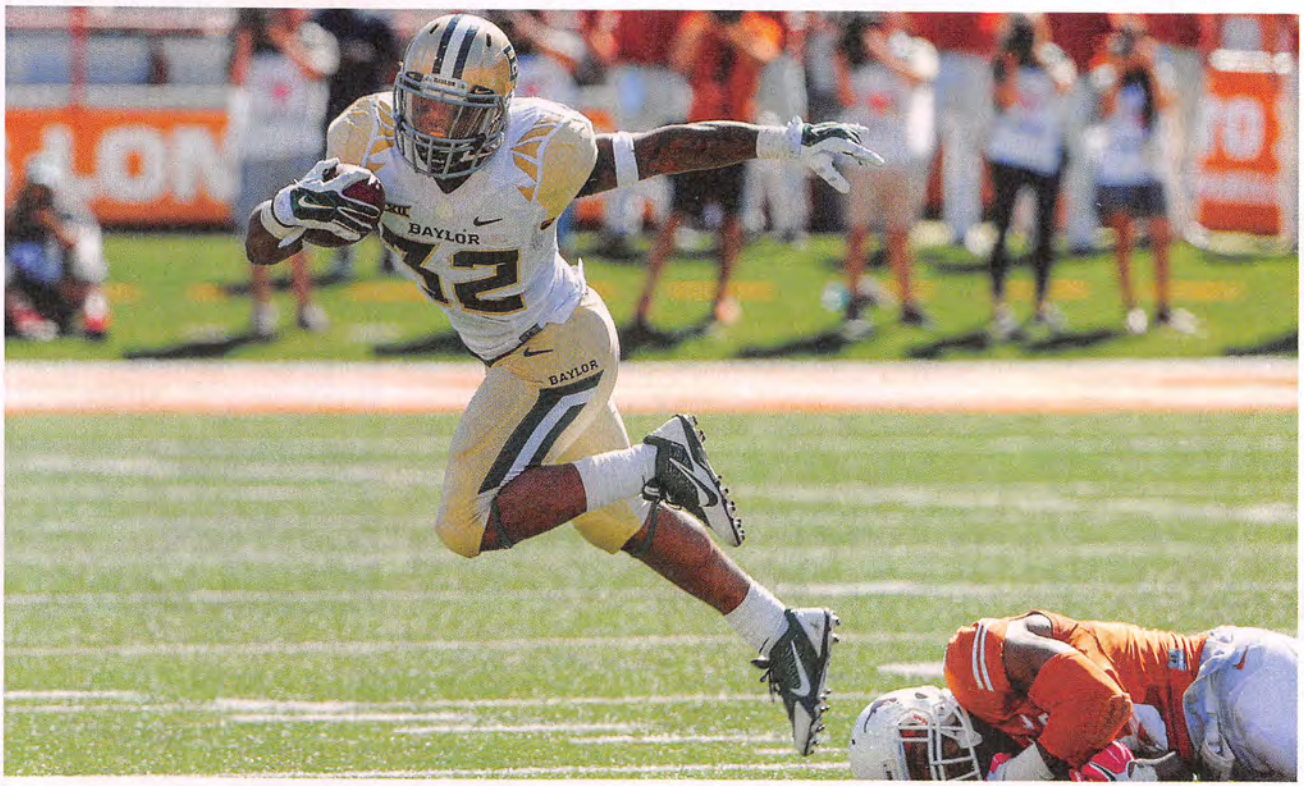
RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dane Evans, 462-256-3,102-17, 23 TDs
Rushing: Zack Langer, 196 att., 801 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Keevan Lucas, 101 rec., 1,219 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Michael Mudoh, 113
Sacks: Derrick Alexander, 7.5
Interceptions: Michael Mudoh, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tulsa Athletics

Big 12 PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. BAYLOR **BEARS** — 11-1, 8-1 BIG 12
2. TCU **HORNED FROGS** — 10-2, 7-2 BIG 12
3. OKLAHOMA **SOONERS** — 9-3, 6-3 BIG 12
4. OKLAHOMA STATE **COWBOYS** — 8-4, 5-4 BIG 12
5. TEXAS **LONGHORNS** — 7-5, 5-4 BIG 12
6. WEST VIRGINIA **MOUNTAINEERS** — 8-4, 5-4 BIG 12
7. KANSAS STATE **WILDCATS** — 7-5, 4-5 BIG 12
8. TEXAS TECH **RED RAIDERS** — 6-6, 4-5 BIG 12
9. IOWA STATE **CYCLONES** — 3-9, 1-8 BIG 12
10. KANSAS **JAYHAWKS** — 1-11, 0-9 BIG 12

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Cotton Bowl: Michigan State 42, Baylor 41
Peach Bowl: TCU 42, Ole Miss 3
Alamo Bowl: UCLA 40, Kansas State 35
Russell Athletic Bowl: Clemson 40, Oklahoma 6
Texas Bowl: Arkansas 31, Texas 7
Liberty Bowl: Texas A&M 45, West Virginia 37
Cactus Bowl: Oklahoma State 30, Washington 22

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff: Baylor vs. Alabama
Sugar Bowl: TCU vs. Georgia
Alamo Bowl: Oklahoma vs. Arizona State
Russell Athletic Bowl: West Virginia vs. Notre Dame
Texas Bowl: Oklahoma State vs. LSU
Liberty Bowl: Texas vs. Mississippi State
Cactus Bowl: Kansas State vs. Utah
Heart of Dallas Bowl: Texas Tech vs. Rice

Linwood: Chris Covatta; Shepard: Layne Murdoch

2014 BIG 12 STANDINGS

	BIG 12	OVERALL
BAYLOR	8-1	11-2
TCU	8-1	12-1
KANSAS STATE	7-2	9-4
OKLAHOMA	5-4	8-5
TEXAS	5-4	6-7
WEST VIRGINIA	5-4	7-6
OKLAHOMA STATE	4-5	7-6
TEXAS TECH	2-7	4-8
KANSAS	1-8	3-9
IOWA STATE	0-9	2-10

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	3	2	1	1	1	5	6
IOWA STATE	8	10	6	9	9	10	9
KANSAS	10	7	10	10	10	9	10
KANSAS STATE	9	9	9	4	6	6	3
OKLAHOMA	5	1	3	7	5	1	7
OKLAHOMA STATE	2	8	4	5	4	2	2
TCU	1	4	2	2	2	8	5
TEXAS	7	6	8	6	3	4	4
TEXAS TECH	4	5	5	3	7	7	8
WEST VIRGINIA	6	3	7	8	8	3	1

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Texas 2. Oklahoma 3. Texas Tech 4. West Virginia 5. Baylor
6. Oklahoma State 7. TCU 8. Kansas State 9. Iowa State 10. Kansas



PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Trevone Boykin	6-2	205	Sr.	TCU
RB	Shock Linwood	5-9	195	Jr.	Baylor
RB	Samaje Perine	5-11	237	So.	Oklahoma
WR	Corey Coleman	5-11	190	Jr.	Baylor
WR	Josh Doctson	6-3	195	Sr.	TCU
WR	Sterling Shepard	5-10	191	Sr.	Oklahoma
C	Joey Hunt	6-3	295	Sr.	TCU
OL	Le'Raven Clark	6-6	316	Sr.	Texas Tech
OL	Spencer Drango	6-6	310	Sr.	Baylor
OL	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	6-6	308	Sr.	TCU
OL	Cody Whitehair	6-4	309	Sr.	Kansas State

First-Team Defense

DL	Shawn Oakman	6-9	280	Sr.	Baylor
DL	Emmanuel Ogbah	6-4	275	Jr.	Oklahoma State
DL	Andrew Billings	6-2	300	Jr.	Baylor
DL	Pete Robertson	6-3	238	Sr.	Texas Tech
LB	Nick Kwiatkoski	6-2	235	Sr.	West Virginia
LB	Ryan Simmons	6-0	240	Sr.	Oklahoma State
LB	Eric Striker	6-0	223	Sr.	Oklahoma
CB	Zack Sanchez	5-11	175	Jr.	Oklahoma
CB	Daryl Worley	6-2	198	Jr.	West Virginia
S	Dante Barnett	6-1	186	Sr.	Kansas State
S	Karl Joseph	5-11	197	Sr.	West Virginia

First-Team Specialists

K	Josh Lambert	5-11	215	Jr.	West Virginia
P	Nick O'Toole	6-3	228	Sr.	West Virginia
KR	Alex Ross	6-1	220	Jr.	Oklahoma
PR	Cameron Echols-Luper	6-0	190	Jr.	TCU

Second-Team Offense

QB	Mason Rudolph	6-4	220	So.	Oklahoma State
RB	Aaron Green	5-11	202	Sr.	TCU
RB	DeAndre Washington	5-8	198	Sr.	Texas Tech
WR	KD Cannon	6-0	175	So.	Baylor
WR	Jakeem Grant	5-7	169	Sr.	Texas Tech
WR	Brandon Sheperd	6-1	195	Sr.	Oklahoma State
C	Tyler Orlosky	6-4	297	Jr.	West Virginia
OL	Zachary Crabtree	6-7	305	So.	Oklahoma State
OL	Sedrick Flowers	6-3	319	Sr.	Texas
OL	Kent Perkins	6-5	320	Jr.	Texas
OL	Boston Stiverson	6-4	312	Sr.	Kansas State

Second-Team Defense

DL	Travis Britz	6-4	293	Sr.	Kansas State
DL	Davion Pierson	6-2	305	Sr.	TCU
DL	Hassan Ridgeway	6-4	320	Jr.	Texas
DL	Charles Tapper	6-4	283	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Dominique Alexander	6-0	229	Jr.	Oklahoma
LB	Jordan Evans	6-3	242	Jr.	Oklahoma
LB	Taylor Young	5-10	225	So.	Baylor
CB	Danzel McDaniel	6-1	205	Sr.	Kansas State
CB	Kevin Peterson	5-11	190	Sr.	Oklahoma State
S	Derrick Kindred	5-10	210	Sr.	TCU
S	Orion Stewart	6-2	200	Jr.	Baylor

Second-Team Specialists

K	Jaden Oberkrom	6-3	187	Sr.	TCU
P	Ethan Perry	6-4	230	Sr.	TCU
KR	Morgan Burns	5-11	195	Sr.	Kansas State
PR	Dede Westbrook	6-1	167	Jr.	Oklahoma

BAYLOR BEARS

National Forecast: 3
Big 12 Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Art Briles
Record at School: 55-34 (7 years)
Career Record: 89-62 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kendal Briles
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Bennett
Waco, TX • McLane Stadium (45,140)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
4	at SMU	
12	Lamar	
26	Rice	
OCTOBER		
3	vs. Texas Tech #	
10	at Kansas	
17	West Virginia	
24	Iowa State	
NOVEMBER		
5	at Kansas State	
14	Oklahoma	
21	at Oklahoma State	
27	at TCU	
DECEMBER		
5	Texas	

#Arlington, TX

2014 RESULTS (11-2, 8-1)

Aug.	31	SMU	W	45-0
Sept.	6	Northwestern State	W	70-6
Sept.	12	at Buffalo	W	63-21
Sept.	27	at Iowa State	W	49-28
Oct.	4	at Texas	W	28-7
Oct.	11	TCU	W	61-58
Oct.	18	at West Virginia	L	27-41
Nov.	1	Kansas	W	60-14
Nov.	8	at Oklahoma	W	48-14
Nov.	22	Oklahoma State	W	49-28
Nov.	29	vs. Texas Tech %	W	48-46
Dec.	6	Kansas State	W	38-27
Jan.	1	vs. Michigan State #	L	41-42

%Arlington #Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jarrett Stidham, QB, Stephenville, TX
2. Blake Lynch, WR, Gilmer, TX
3. JaMycal Hasty, RB, Longview, TX
4. Devontre Stricklin, WR, Waco, TX
5. J.W. Ketchum, S, Houston, TX
6. Maurice Porter, OL, Missouri City, TX*
7. Jordan Tolbert, CB, Missouri City, TX
8. Tony Nicholson, ATH, Grand Prairie, TX
9. Henry Black, DB, Shreveport, LA
10. Sam Tecklenburg, ATH, Plano TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

3

Top-15 poll finishes for Baylor in the last four seasons. The Bears managed four such finishes between 1961 and 2010.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	48.2 ppg	1	1
Rushing	215.5 ypg	2	27
Passing	365.9 ypg	1	4
Total	581.5 ypg	1	1
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	25.5 ppg	4	48
Rushing	117.7 ypg	3	16
Passing	264.2 ypg	7	107
Total	381.8 ypg	4	50
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+13	+1.00	2	7

OFFENSE Spencer Drango hasn't scored one touchdown, taken a snap at quarterback, caught a pass or even gained a yard rushing. But when you're talking about a Baylor offense that's led the nation in each of the last two seasons, there's not a more important piece to the puzzle than the All-America left tackle.

"It certainly gives us a better opportunity (to compete for a national championship) when you come out of the gates with guys that have been there," eighth-year Baylor coach Art Briles says.

With Drango and the entire starting line returning intact, along with a 1,000-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receivers, it certainly eases the transition to a new quarterback.

Fourth-year junior Seth Russell takes the reins from Bryce Petty, who threw for 8,055 yards and 61 touchdowns while leading the Bears to back-to-back Big 12 championships and a two-year record of 22–4. "He's shown the ability to help our football team win with his feet and with his arm and with his intelligence," Briles says of Russell, who's much more of a running threat than Petty.

Joining Drango up front are Pat Colbert at the other tackle, Blake Muir and Jarell Broxton at guard and sophomore Kyle Fuller at center.

That's music to the ears of junior running back Shock Linwood, a returning All-Big 12 pick who rushed for 1,252 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. The Bears are also loaded at receiver with junior Corey Coleman and sophomore KD Cannon, a lethal duo that combined for 122 catches for 2,149 yards and 19 TDs.

DEFENSE Another pre-Signing Day recruiting coup was keeping defensive end Shawn Oakman in the fold for another year. A third-team All-America and first-team All-Big 12 selection, Oakman set the single-season school record for sacks (11.0) and was just shy of another mark with 19.5 tackles for a loss.

"I just think you can look at it a year from now, and you're talking about a (Jadeveon) Clowney, one of those Ndamukong Suh's, one of those J.J. Watt's, where he will test well, he'll play well," defensive coordinator Phil Bennett says

Oakman anchors a front that includes All-Big 12 pick Andrew Billings at nose tackle, fifth-year senior Beau Blackshear at tackle and either Jamal Palmer or returning Freshman All-American K.J. Smith at the other end.

The linebacking crew went through a makeover with former junior college transfer Grant Campbell in the middle, another Freshman All-American in Taylor Young on the weak side and sophomore Travon Blanchard at the "Bear" position.

Easily the most scrutinized area is the secondary, where all four starters return intact. Juniors Xavien Howard and Ryan Reid are the corners, with Terrell Burt and Orion Stewart at safety, but the depth is better than it's ever been.

SPECIALISTS There will be a lot of pressure on incoming freshman Drew Galitz, who was recruited to replace four-year starting punter Spencer Roth (43.7-yard career average). Kicker Chris Callahan had an up-and-down freshman season, missing five of his first six field goals, but he booted the game-winner to beat TCU and finished the season by making 17 of his last 20 attempts.

FINAL ANALYSIS While the offense has led the charge in Baylor's meteoric rise and back-to-back league championships, this year's team will have to count on an experienced defense being dominant out of the gates, "because you're starting a new QB," Briles says. The much-maligned secondary will have to be vastly improved for the Bears to three-peat in a league race that might come down to a Nov. 27 showdown at TCU.



KD CANNON

Bruce Schwartzman

"Their skill guys are as talented as anybody in the country. They always seem to have not one, but three receivers."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	**Jay Lee (Sr.)**	16	Davion Hall (So.)	
IR	1	Corey Coleman (Jr.)	7	Lynx Hawthorne (Jr.)	
WR	9	**KD Cannon (So.)**	8	Ishmael Zamora (Fr.)	
LT	58	**Spencer Drango (Sr.)**	57	Tanner Thrift (So.)	
LG	73	**Blake Muir (Sr.)**	64	Dom Desouza (Jr.)	
C	55	**Kyle Fuller (Jr.)**	71	Blake Blackmar (Fr.)	
RG	61	**Jarell Broxton (Sr.)**	67	Desmine Hilliard (Sr.)	
RT	69	**Pat Colbert (Sr.)**	77	Patrick Lawrence (Fr.)	
TE	41	Tre'Von Armstead (Jr.)	15	Gus Penning (Sr.)	
QB	17	Seth Russell (Jr.)	13	Chris Johnson (So.)	
RB	32	**Shock Linwood (Jr.)**	28	Devin Chafin (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DE	92	Jamal Palmer (Sr.)	56	**K.J. Smith (So.)**	
NT	75	**Andrew Billings (Jr.)**	96	Byron Bonds (Jr.)	
DT	95	**Beau Blackshear (Sr.)**	93	Suleiman Masumbuko (Sr.)	
DE	2	**Shawn Oakman (Sr.)**	15	Brian Nance (So.)	
WLB	51	**Taylor Young (So.)**	19	Raaquan Davis (So.)	
MLB	5	Grant Campbell (Sr.)	20	Aiavion Edwards (Jr.)	
BEAR	48	Travon Blanchard (So.)	21	Patrick Levels (Jr.)	
CB	18	**Xavien Howard (Jr.)**	24	Terrence Singleton (Jr.)	
CB	9	**Ryan Reid (Jr.)**	3	Tion Wright (Jr.)	
S	28	**Orion Stewart (Jr.)**	26	Taion Sells (Jr.)	
S	13	**Terrell Burt (Sr.)**	12	Alfred Pullom (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Chris Callahan (So.)	KR	2	Johnny Jefferson (So.)
P		Drew Galitz (Fr.)	PR	7	Lynx Hawthorne (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Seth Russell, 85-48-804-1, 8 TDs
Rushing: Shock Linwood, 251 att., 1,252 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Corey Coleman, 64 rec., 1,119 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Taylor Young, 92
Sacks: Shawn Oakman, 11.0
Interceptions: Orion Stewart, 4; Xavien Howard, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

National Forecast: 74
Big 12 Prediction: 9

Head Coach: Paul Rhoads
Record at School: 29-46 (6 years)
Career Record: 29-46 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Mangino
Defensive Coordinator: Wally Burnham
Ames, IA • Jack Trice Stadium (61,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Northern Iowa	
12	Iowa	
19	at Toledo	
OCTOBER		
3	Kansas	
10	at Texas Tech	
17	TCU	
24	at Baylor	
31	Texas	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Oklahoma	
14	Oklahoma State	
21	at Kansas State	
28	at West Virginia	

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 0-9)

Aug.	30	North Dakota State	L	14-34
Sept.	6	Kansas State	L	28-32
Sept.	13	at Iowa	W	20-17
Sept.	27	Baylor	L	28-49
Oct.	4	at Oklahoma State	L	20-37
Oct.	11	Toledo	W	37-30
Oct.	18	at Texas	L	45-48
Nov.	1	Oklahoma	L	14-59
Nov.	8	at Kansas	L	14-34
Nov.	22	Texas Tech	L	31-34
Nov.	29	West Virginia	L	24-37
Dec.	6	at TCU	L	3-55

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Demond Tucker, DT, Hazelhurst, MS*
2. De'Amontae Jackson, DT, Ocala, FL
3. Joshua Thomas, RB, Buford, GA
4. Jaypee Philbert, OL, Grayson, GA*
5. Julian Good-Jones, OL, Cedar Rapids, IA
6. Bobby Leath, DT, Lake Wales, FL*
7. Bobby McMillen, LB, Naperville, IL
8. Denver Johnson, WR, Oklahoma City, OK
9. Bryce Meeker, OL, Cedar Rapids, IA
10. Marcel Spears, LB, Olathe, KS

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

.275

ISU's win percentage since the 2011 upset of Oklahoma State. Paul Rhoads' former giant killers are just 11-29 in that span.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	23.2 ppg	8	96
Rushing	124.1 ypg	9	105
Passing	248.4 ypg	6	50
Total	372.5 ypg	8	89
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	38.8 ppg	9	115
Rushing	246.3 ypg	9	120
Passing	282.7 ypg	10	119
Total	528.9 ypg	10	125
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
0	0.00	5	59

OFFENSE Iowa State finished last season ranked 89th in the nation in total offense. But with coordinator Mark Mangino's system now fully in place and an experienced starting quarterback in Sam Richardson running the show, there is reason to believe the Cyclones can be greatly improved.

One of the main reasons for the optimism is a wide receiving corps that should be among the best in the Big 12. Quenton Bundrage, who tied a school record with nine touchdown receptions in 2013, tore his ACL in the 2014 opener and is set to return at full strength. He will be joined by two large and talented partners in D'Vario Montgomery (6'6", 236) and Allen Lazard (6'5", 218), both of whom showed great promise during the 2014 campaign.

It's the offensive line and running backs who hold the questions surrounding this offense. Gone are both of Iowa State's top tailbacks from last season, Aaron Wimberly and DeVondrick Nealy. Sophomores Tyler Brown and Martinez Syria and redshirt freshman Mike Warren are expected to share carries this fall.

Iowa State's offensive line has been decimated by injuries in each of the last two seasons. However, because of that, there are a bunch of players at the position who have received significant playing time. Jake Campos, forced into the lineup early last season, will anchor the line at left tackle.

DEFENSE There is only one way for this group to go following last season's final ranking of 125th in total defense. The good news for coordinator Wally Burnham is that his defensive line should be much improved, thanks in part to the arrival of junior college transfer Demond Tucker, who impressed at nose guard in the spring. Devlyn Cousin is a reliable defensive tackle, while Dale Pierson and Trent Taylor gained valuable experience in 2014 and should be viable defensive ends this fall.

Linebacker is another story. Jevohn Miller was leading the team in tackles before he got hurt last year and is gone to graduation. Luke Knott can't seem to stay healthy. A bulk of pressure is going to be put on the back of Jordan Harris, a junior college recruit from 2014 who redshirted last year because he couldn't grasp the defense. Harris had a great spring and is the favorite to start in the middle.

Iowa State is in good shape at cornerback with both starters from last year, Nigel Tribune and Sam E. Richardson, returning. The Cyclones' second-leading tackler, strong safety T.J. Mutcherson, was dismissed from the team in the offseason and is expected to be replaced by senior Qujuan Floyd. The Big 12's Freshman Defensive Player of the Year, Kamari Cotton-Moya, will be the man at free safety.

SPECIALISTS There is no controversy when it comes to Iowa State's kicking game. Cole Netten went 11-for-14 on field goals last year and is back for his junior season. Punter Colin Downing had an impressive freshman campaign, averaging 39.4 yards per kick. The return game will be interesting, but specialist Jomal Wiltz was brought in as a junior college recruit specifically for these duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS There is significant pressure on Paul Rhoads, whose program has won a total of five games in the past two years, to show significant improvement this season. First and foremost, for that to happen, the Cyclones have to stay healthy. After that, the offense needs to be more explosive and efficient. The defense should be improved, but not enough to consistently slow down quality Big 12 offenses. Getting to six wins — and reaching bowl-eligibility — will be a challenge for the 2014 Cyclones.



ALLEN LAZARD

Tim Umphrey

> With Quenton Bundrage and Allen Lazard, they've got a chance to be better (at receiver. Those guys are talented.
>
> -An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	8	**D'Vario Montgomery (Jr.)**	83	Brett Medders (Sr.)
WR	9	Quenton Bundrage (Sr.)	10	Jauan Wesley (So.)
WR	5	**Allen Lazard (So.)**	13	Dondre Daley (Jr.)
LT	67	**Jake Campos (So.)**	79	Shawn Curtis (So.)
LG	78	Wendell Taiese (Sr.)	77	Oni Omoile (Sr.)
C	76	**Jamison Lalk (Sr.)**	53	Patrick Scoggins (Jr.)
RG	70	**Daniel Burton (Jr.)**	63	Ryan Glenn (So.)
RT	72	Brock Dagel (Sr.)	66	Jacob Dunning (Jr.)
TE	95	Ben Boesen (Sr.)	88	Justin Chandler (Jr.)
QB	12	**Sam Richardson (Sr.)**	3	Grant Rohach (Jr.)
RB	6	Tyler Brown (So.)	2	Mike Warren (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	45	Dale Pierson (Sr.)	11	Gabe Luna (Jr.)
DT	94	Devlyn Cousin (Jr.)	95	Robby Garcia (So.)
NG	97	Demond Tucker (Jr.)	99	Vernell Trent (So.)
DE	98	**Trent Taylor (Sr.)**	41	Darius White (Jr.)
WLB	25	Brian Mills (So.)	35	Levi Peters (Jr.)
MLB	2	Jordan Harris (Jr.)	29	Kane Seeley (Jr.)
SLB	9	Reggan Northrup (Fr.)	12	Jarnor Jones (Jr.)
CB	4	**Sam E. Richardson (Sr.)**	17	Jomal Wiltz (Jr.)
CB	34	**Nigel Tribune (Jr.)**	10	Brian Peavy (Fr.)
SS	7	Qujuan Floyd (Sr.)	23	Darian Cotton (Sr.)
FS	5	**Kamari Cotton-Moya (So.)**	27	Kamari Syrie (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Cole Netten (Jr.)	KR	17	Jomal Wiltz (Jr.)
P	13	Cole Downing (So.)	PR	17	Jomal Wiltz (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sam Richardson, 451-254-2,669-9, 18 TDs
Rushing: Sam Richardson, 125 att., 421 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Jarvis West, 46 rec., 349 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Kamari Cotton-Moya, 77
Sacks: Dale Pierson, 2.0; Trent Taylor, 2.0
Interceptions: Sam E. Richardson, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

National Forecast: 103
Big 12 Prediction: 10

Head Coach: David Beaty
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Rob Likens
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Clint Bowen, Kenny Perry
Lawrence, KS • Memorial Stadium (50,071)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 South Dakota State
12 Memphis
26 at Rutgers

OCTOBER
3 at Iowa State
10 Baylor
17 Texas Tech
24 at Oklahoma State
31 Oklahoma

NOVEMBER
7 at Texas
14 at TCU
21 West Virginia
28 Kansas State

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 1-8)

Sept.	6	SE Missouri State	W	34-28
Sept.	13	at Duke	L	3-41
Sept.	20	Central Michigan	W	24-10
Sept.	27	Texas	L	0-23
Oct.	4	at West Virginia	L	14-33
Oct.	11	Oklahoma State	L	20-27
Oct.	18	at Texas Tech	L	21-34
Nov.	1	at Baylor	L	14-60
Nov.	8	Iowa State	W	34-14
Nov.	15	TCU	L	30-34
Nov.	22	at Oklahoma	L	7-44
Nov.	29	Kansas State	L	13-51

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ryan Willis, QB, Overland Park, KS
2. Ke'aun Kinner, RB, Little Elm, TX*
3. Aaron Garza, OL, Sherman, TX
4. Dorance Armstrong Jr., DL, Houston, TX
5. Tyrone Miller Jr., DB, Ann Arbor, MI
6. Bazie Bates IV, DB, Allen, TX*
7. Taylor Martin, RB, Fort Worth, TX
8. Emmanuel Moore, WR, Haslet, TX
9. Shaquille Richmond, DB, Grand Prairie, TX
10. Marnez Ogletree, DB, Lawrenceville, GA

*junior college transfer

Kansas recovered 68.9 percent of all fumbles in 2014, most in FBS, which propped up a plus-3 turnover margin. Expect regression.

STAT CORNER
68.9

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	17.8 ppg	10	115
Rushing	121.2 ypg	10	109
Passing	202.9 ypg	9	84
Total	324.1 ypg	10	115
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	33.3 ppg	8	104
Rushing	209.7 ypg	8	104
Passing	243.5 ypg	5	86
Total	453.2 ypg	8	106
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+3	+0.25	4	45

OFFENSE The quarterback competition should be settled in the fall as new coach David Beaty and offensive coordinator Rob Likens seek to find the best fit for their new Air Raid offense. The incumbent is 5'10" senior Michael Cummings, who gave KU some much-needed consistency while starting the final seven games in 2014 and shared the Jayhawks' Offensive Player of the Year award. Cummings, however, went down with a knee injury in the spring game in late April, and his availability for the fall is in doubt. Dual-threat Montell Cozart is back, and two true freshmen also should be in the mix: late find Carter Stanley and in-state talent Ryan Willis.

The running back position should be KU's deepest position group, as KU's top two rushers return in sophomore Corey Avery and senior De'Andre Mann. Avery was suspended in late April for a violation of team rules but is expected back in the fall. Two newcomers — junior college transfer Ke'aun Kinner and freshman Taylor Martin — also should provide KU with additional quickness.

KU's offensive line will be rebuilding after losing three starters. Left tackle Jordan Shelley-Smith was one of the highlights of the offseason, as he added 34 pounds to get to 296 after making the full-time transition from tight end to offensive lineman.

The Jayhawks will be inexperienced at receiver, as their returners combined for just seven catches a season ago. Senior Tre' Parmalee — son of longtime NFL running back Bernie — could provide some stability in the slot. KU also should have two reliable options at tight end in sophomore Ben Johnson and junior Kent Taylor, who was a top-ranked recruit out of high school.

DEFENSE Beaty said early in spring practices that the strength of his team was its defensive line. KU does have some talent returning, starting with Ben Goodman, who will be asked to be more of a vocal leader. Former walk-on T.J. Semke is an assignment-sound player, while Andrew Bolton also gives KU some potential at defensive tackle after an up-and-down junior season.

Linebackers coach Kevin Kane didn't yet have the depth he was hoping for in spring practices, but he did feel confident about his top guys. That starts with Jake Love, who returns after posting 53 tackles. Oft-injured Schyler Miles has shown a natural awareness at middle linebacker, while Courtney Arnick has some versatility after posting 45 tackles a season ago.

The Jayhawks lost both starting cornerbacks and safeties from last season, meaning this year's group will be a work in progress. At cornerback, KU's most reliable player might be a newcomer, as Brandon Stewart impressed in spring practices while getting first-team reps. Juniors Fish Smithson, Bazie Bates IV and Greg Allen are the top candidates to play at safety.

SPECIALISTS The Jayhawks have major questions following the graduation of All-Big 12 punter Trevor Pardula. Two-year kicker Matthew Wyman returns, though his 9-of-15 accuracy on field goals leaves room for improvement. At punter, Eric Kahn and Andrew Yoxall will compete to start with no kicks between them.

FINAL ANALYSIS Though Beaty hopes to start the process of rebuilding a winning football program in Lawrence, it definitely won't be easy right away. The Jayhawks have suffered through a string of unsuccessful campaigns since an Orange Bowl victory in 2008 — KU has won a total of 12 games in its last five seasons — and this year's roster seems as depleted as any in the last decade. Following the departure of a rash of junior college players — signed by previous coach Charlie Weis as he tried to quick-fix the program — KU's numbers are down, and Beaty's challenge in 2015 should be immense.



COREY AVERY

"I don't think (David Beaty) will complain about what they don't have. He'll buy into just making it work with what they have."
-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	1	Rodriguez Coleman (Sr.)		Jeremiah Booker (Fr.)
WR	5	Bobby Hartzog Jr. (So.)		Steven Sims (Fr.)
WR	11	Tre' Parmalee (Sr.)	7	Derrick Neal (So.)
LT	79	Jordan Shelley-Smith (Jr.)		Clyde McCauley (Fr.)
LG	55	Jacob Bragg (Fr.)	72	Will Smith (Jr.)
C	**77**	**Joe Gibson (So.)**	55	Jacob Bragg (Fr.)
RG	75	Junior Visinia (So.)	62	D'Andre Banks (Jr.)
RT	**78**	**Larry Mazyck (Sr.)**	65	Jayson Rhodes (So.)
TE	84	Ben Johnson (So.)	81	Kent Taylor (Jr.)
QB	2	Montell Cozart (Jr.)	**14**	**Michael Cummings (Sr.)**
RB	6	Corey Avery (So.)	23	De'Andre Mann (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	**93**	**Ben Goodman (Sr.)**	35	T.J. Semke (Sr.)
DT	95	Andrew Bolton (Sr.)	91	D.J. Williams (Fr.)
DT	96	Daniel Wise (Fr.)	54	Jacky Dezir (So.)
DE	56	Anthony Olobia (Jr.)	13	Damani Mosby (Jr.)
MLB	32	Schyler Miles (Jr.)	6	Kyron Watson (So.)
WLB	**57**	**Jake Love (Sr.)**	28	Courtney Arnick (Jr.)
NB	**30**	**Tevin Shaw (Jr.)**	28	Courtney Arnick (Jr.)
CB	8	Brandon Stewart (Jr.)	1	Matthew Boateng (So.)
CB	23	Ronnie Davis (Sr.)		Marnez Ogletree (Jr.)
SS	24	Bazie Bates IV (Jr.)	22	Greg Allen (Jr.)
FS	9	Fish Smithson (Jr.)		Denzel Feaster (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Matthew Wyman (Jr.)	KR	1	Rodriguez Coleman (Sr.)
P	18	Eric Kahn (Sr.)	PR	7	Derrick Neal (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Michael Cummings, 244-137-1,715-6, 9 TDs
Rushing: Corey Avery, 151 att., 631 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Corey Avery, 18 rec., 217 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Isaiah Johnson, 75
Sacks: Jake Love, 3.0
Interceptions: Matthew Boateng, 1; Isaiah Johnson, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

National Forecast: 44
Big 12 Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Bill Snyder
Record at School: 187-94-1 (23 years)
Career Record: 187-94-1 (23 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Dana Dimel, Del Miller
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Hayes
Manhattan, KS
Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	South Dakota
12	at UTSA
19	Louisiana Tech
OCTOBER	
3	at Oklahoma State
10	TCU
17	Oklahoma
24	at Texas
NOVEMBER	
5	Baylor
14	at Texas Tech
21	Iowa State
28	at Kansas
DECEMBER	
5	West Virginia

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 7-2)

Aug.	30	Stephen F. Austin	W	55-16
Sept.	6	at Iowa State	W	32-28
Sept.	18	Auburn	L	14-20
Sept.	27	UTEP	W	58-28
Oct.	4	Texas Tech	W	45-13
Oct.	18	at Oklahoma	W	31-30
Oct.	25	Texas	W	23-0
Nov.	1	Oklahoma State	W	48-14
Nov.	8	at TCU	L	20-41
Nov.	20	at West Virginia	W	26-20
Nov.	29	Kansas	W	51-13
Dec.	6	at Baylor	L	27-38
Jan.	2	vs. UCLA #	L	35-40

#Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Elijah Sullivan, LB, Tucker, GA
2. Duke Shelley, DB, Tucker, GA
3. Reggie Walker, DE, Ponchatoula, LA
4. Alex Delton, QB, Hays, KS
5. Bryce English, DT, Desoto, TX
6. Kalin Heath, ATH, Cartersville, GA
7. Trey Dishon, DT, Horton, KS
8. Alex Barnes, RB, Pittsburg, KS
9. Denzel Goolsby, WR, Wichita, KS
10. Scott Frantz, OL, Lawrence, KS

STAT CORNER

Percent of K-State's rushing attempts that were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage in 2014, 104th in the country.

22.0

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	*Per Game*	*Big 12*	*National*
Scoring	35.8 ppg	4	24
Rushing	134.2 ypg	8	101
Passing	287.4 ypg	5	16
Total	421.6 ypg	6	47
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	23.2 ppg	2	29
Rushing	140.3 ypg	4	33
Passing	229.0 ypg	2	64
Total	369.3 ypg	3	41
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+8	+0.62	3	22

OFFENSE Bill Snyder's teams are at their best when he has a returning quarterback he trusts throwing passes. This season, he will try to prove he can win with a new quarterback, too. And when we say new, we mean brand, spanking new. The frontrunner, Joe Hubener, has never started a football game at any level at quarterback. The junior from Cheney, Kan., played other positions in high school and walked on at K-State as an athlete. He has since worked his way up to scholarship status and served behind Jake Waters as the team's backup quarterback a year ago. He spent the spring battling with sophomore Jesse Ertz and freshman Alex Delton but says the job is his to lose.

No matter who ends up claiming the prize, K-State's offense will look very different next season. While Waters was a gifted passer, his potential replacements are better runners.

Running will be key behind an offensive line that returns everyone other than center B.J. Finney. But the Wildcats will need better production from their running backs, none of whom exceeded 76 yards in a game last season. Charles Jones returns as the presumptive starter after rushing for 540 yards and 13 touchdowns a year ago.

The Wildcats lose star receivers Tyler Lockett and slot expert Curry Sexton and will look to an untested group of receivers to take their place.

DEFENSE Dante Barnett is understandably confident about K-State's secondary. Allow the senior defensive back to explain why: "We are so experienced. We have the talent. We have a physical corner and a speed corner. That is big." Barnett has started 28 games at safety, and he is ready to lead K-State's defense as a senior, especially with fellow seniors Danzel McDaniel and Morgan Burns returning at corner. McDaniel covers short passes as well as anyone, and Burns has eye-popping speed.

That trio should help the Wildcats as they try to improve their front seven after the loss of leading tackler Jonathan Truman. Linebacker Elijah Lee did not make as many stops as most of his teammates while playing regularly as a true freshman, but he had as many highlight hits as anyone. Lee finished his first college season with 19 tackles, including 4.5 sacks. He did all that while playing mostly on third downs as a standup pass rusher. Now, K-State hopes he can do more in an expanded role, joining Will Davis in the middle of K-State's defense.

Up front, all-conference defensive tackle Travis Britz should lead the way, while Marquel Bryant and Jordan Willis try to replace Ryan Mueller's production at defensive end.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Matthew McCrane had a fantastic freshman campaign, connecting on 18-of-19 field goals. He will provide a steady foot in the kicking game, while Nick Walsh returns as punter. At specialist, the main question is: Who will replace Lockett? The do-everything player was hard to catch a year ago. Morgan Burns returned a kickoff for a touchdown last season, so he should slide into that role.

FINAL ANALYSIS On paper, K-State looks like it lost too many playmakers to match its win total from a year ago, but you can't count out a Snyder-coached team.

"It is obvious there were some critical elements in our program that we lost. When you lose the production that we had offensively, it certainly is sorely missed," Snyder says. "From a defensive standpoint, we lost fewer people, fewer numbers. The dynamics are difficult, and they are every year. Some positions are a little harder to reconstruct than others. We have a lot of work ahead of us."



DANTE BARNETT

"Two words: Bill Snyder. They're the most well-prepared, well-disciplined team we play all year."

-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Kyle Klein (Sr.)	7	Judah Jones (So.)	
WR	19	**Kody Cook (Sr.)**	2	Andre Davis (Sr.)	
WR	6	**Deante Burton (Jr.)**	12	Stanton Weber (Sr.)	
LT	55	**Cody Whitehair (Sr.)**	64	Aaron Bennett (Sr.)	
LG	77	**Boston Stiverson (Sr.)**	70	Will Ash (Jr.)	
C	71	Dalton Risner (Fr.)	69	Reed Bergstrom (Sr.)	
RG	68	**Luke Hayes (Sr.)**	75	A.J. Allen (Jr.)	
RT	65	**Matt Kleinsorge (Sr.)**	76	Ajahne Brager (So.)	
TE	88	Dayton Valentine (Fr.)	80	Cody Small (So.)	
QB	8	Joe Hubener (Jr.)	16	Jesse Ertz (So.)	
RB	24	Charles Jones (Jr.)	3	Dalvin Warmack (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	45	Marquel Bryant (Sr.)	34	Tanner Wood (So.)	
DT	95	**Travis Britz (Sr.)**	92	Matt Seiwert (So.)	
DT	60	Will Geary (So.)	97	Demonte Hood (Jr.)	
DE	75	**Jordan Willis (Jr.)**	90	Joshua Little (Fr.)	
LB	35	Will Davis (Jr.)	41	Sam Sizelove (Fr.)	
LB	9	Elijah Lee (So.)	52	Charmeachealle Moore (Jr.)	
NB	24	Nate Jackson (Sr.)	10	Donnie Starks (Jr.)	
CB	7	**Danzel McDaniel (Sr.)**	5	Jesse Mack (Jr.)	
CB	33	**Morgan Burns (Sr.)**	23	Cre Moore (So.)	
SS	22	**Dante Barnett (Sr.)**	21	Kendall Adams (Fr.)	
FS	4	Kaleb Prewett (So.)	29	Sean Newlan (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Matthew McCrane (So.)	KR	33	Morgan Burns (Sr.)
P	14	Nick Walsh (So.)	PR	7	Judah Jones (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joe Hubener, 17-9-235-1, 1 TD
Rushing: Charles Jones, 133 att., 540 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Kody Cook, 20 rec., 251 yds., 1
Tackles: Dante Barnett, 77
Sacks: Elijah Lee, 4.5; Jordan Willis, 4.5
Interceptions: Dante Barnett, 3; Morgan Burns, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

National Forecast: 17
Big 12 Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Bob Stoops
Record at School: 168-44 (16 years)
Career Record: 168-44 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lincoln Riley
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Stoops,
Norman, OK
Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Akron
12 at Tennessee
19 Tulsa

OCTOBER
3 West Virginia
10 vs. Texas #
17 at Kansas State
24 Texas Tech
31 at Kansas

NOVEMBER
7 Iowa State
14 at Baylor
21 TCU
28 at Oklahoma State

#Dallas, TX

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug.	30	Louisiana Tech		W 48-16
Sept.	6	at Tulsa		W 52-7
Sept.	13	Tennessee		W 34-10
Sept.	20	at West Virginia		W 45-33
Oct.	4	at TCU		L 33-37
Oct.	11	vs. Texas %		W 31-26
Oct.	18	Kansas State		L 30-31
Nov.	1	at Iowa State		W 59-14
Nov.	8	Baylor		L 14-48
Nov.	15	at Texas Tech		W 42-30
Nov.	22	Kansas		W 44-7
Dec.	6	Oklahoma State	(ot)	L 35-38
Dec.	29	vs. Clemson #		L 6-40

%Dallas #Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Neville Gallimore, DT, St. Catharine's, Ontario, CAN
2. Ricky DeBerry, LB, Mechanicsville, VA
3. P.J. Mbanasor, CB, Pflugerville, TX
4. Rodney Anderson, RB, Katy, TX
5. Will Sunderland, S, Midwest City, OK
6. Bobby Evans, OT, Allen, TX
7. Marquise Overton, DT, Jenks, OK
8. Dede Westbrook, WR, Cameron, TX*
9. Dru Samia, OT, Danville, CA
10. Kahlil Haughton, S, Waco, TX

*junior college transfer

Oklahoma's turnover margin crumbled by 14 in 2014, from a relatively lucky plus-9 in 2013 to a very unlucky minus-5 last fall.

STAT CORNER
-14

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	36.4 ppg	3	20
Rushing	261.2 ypg	1	10
Passing	203.5 ypg	8	83
Total	464.7 ypg	5	23
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	5	55
Rushing	106.4 ypg	1	8
Passing	276.2 ypg	9	117
Total	382.6 ypg	5	51
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-5	-0.38	7	95

OFFENSE When Lincoln Riley arrived to overhaul Oklahoma's offense as coordinator, the immediate question was obvious: Who fit as a triggerman for the spread attack he used to create misery against better competition at East Carolina? That's still the question, although indicators point to Baker Mayfield, the former Texas Tech walk-on and transfer.

None of four quarterbacks — Mayfield, returning starter Trevor Knight or youngsters Cody Thomas and Justice Hansen — did enough to seize the job in the spring. Mayfield looks the part as a pocket passer who has already directed the spread at Tech. But he was prone to throwing interceptions at Tech and tossed two in the spring game. "When I was able to get the ball in our receivers' hands, they made plays for me," Mayfield says. "Now I just have to keep improving and finding ways to get them the ball."

If the quarterback concerns extend into the season, the Sooners always have Plan B. Or is it Plan A? The Big 12's best back as a freshman a year ago, Samaje Perine is a throwback, downhill runner who can dominate and dictate games. Oklahoma rode him hard last fall when the passing game stalled, resulting in solid success, as he ran for a league-leading 1,713 yards and 21 touchdowns. The running game also features the speedy Alex Ross, as well as Joe Mixon, a five-star recruit forced to spend a year away from the team after an ugly off-the-field incident last summer.

Sterling Shepard provides a game-breaker at receiver, but it's critical that others emerge to fit the four-wide scheme.

The offensive line has something to prove, too, and is working to find replacements at both tackles. Returning starters Ty Darlington at center and Nila Kasitati at guard provide a veteran core.

DEFENSE The defense presents a mix of star power and major question marks. And the questions begin up front, where the decision by Jordan Phillips to leave early for the NFL leaves a gaping hole at tackle. Sophomore Charles Walker alleviated some concern inside with a strong spring. And the ends are solid with Charles Tapper, Matt Dimon and D.J. Ward providing a versatile rotation. But will it be a dynamic front?

At linebacker, Eric Striker sets the tone of the defense as an attacking ball hawk and game-plan wrecker. A first-team All-Big 12 selection, Striker led the Sooners with 17 tackles for a loss and nine sacks. And Dominique Alexander and Jordan Evans return as the team's top two tacklers, making the middle a major strength.

The secondary must improve, even with first team all-conference corner Zack Sanchez back to rule his side of the field. Sanchez led the team with six interceptions and eight pass breakups. Sophomore Steven Parker is a rising star at safety or as the nickel, but the Sooners are searching for reliable playmakers at the other corner and safety spots.

SPECIALISTS Replacements at placekicker and punter are needed, and both jobs could fall to incoming freshman Austin Seibert, who was ranked No. 1 at each spot by one recruiting service or another. The return game could be explosive, with Ross proving himself dangerous on kickoffs, averaging 31.2 per runback a year ago. Dede Westbrook and Shepard, slotted to return punts, are also dynamic with the ball in their hands.

FINAL ANALYSIS Much uncertainty surrounds the Sooners entering 2015. Can Mayfield efficiently engineer the offense? And if not, who can? Can the defense fix a leaky secondary that allowed too many big passing plays? The schedule is rough, too, with road games at Tennessee, Kansas State, Baylor and Oklahoma State. A lot of questions. And it's unclear whether the Sooners have all the answers.


SAMAJE PERINE

"It's hard to fathom them not having a great quarterback, but everybody misses in recruiting at times."
-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	11	Dede Westbrook (Jr.)	2	John Humphrey (Fr.)	
WR	3	**Sterling Shepard (Sr.)**	16	Michiah Quick (So.)	
WR	5	**Durron Neal (Sr.)**	15	Jeffery Mead (So.)	
WR	81	Mark Andrews (Fr.)	1	K.J. Young (So.)	
LT	55	Josiah St. John (Sr.)	70	Christian Daimler (So.)	
LG	52	Jamal Danley (Jr.)	68	Jonathan Alvarez (So.)	
C	56	**Ty Darlington (Sr.)**	54	Nila Kasitati (Sr.)	
RG	54	Nila Kasitati (Sr.)	63	Alex Dalton (Fr.)	
RT	72	Derek Farniok (Sr.)	73	Kenyon Frison (Fr.)	
QB	6	Baker Mayfield (Jr.)	9	**Trevor Knight (Jr.)**	
RB	32	**Samaje Perine (So.)**	25	Joe Mixon (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	91	**Charles Tapper (Sr.)**	87	D.J. Ward (So.)
DT	97	Charles Walker (So.)	93	Jordan Wade (Jr.)
DT	92	Matt Romar (So.)		Neville Gallimore (Jr.)
DE	94	Matt Dimon (Jr.)	99	Dwayne Orso (Fr.)
LB	19	**Eric Striker (Sr.)**	23	Devante Bond (Sr.)
LB	1	**Dominique Alexander (Jr.)**	9	Tay Evans (Fr.)
LB	26	**Jordan Evans (Jr.)**	20	Frank Shannon (Sr.)
CB	15	**Zack Sanchez (Jr.)**	12	William Johnson (So.)
CB	7	Jordan Thomas (So.)	27	Dakota Austin (Jr.)
S	10	Steven Parker (So.)	4	Hatari Byrd (Jr.)
S	13	**Ahmad Thomas (Jr.)**		Will Sunderland (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Austin Seibert (Fr.)	KR	28	Alex Ross (Jr.)
P	38	Jack Steed (Jr.)	PR	11	Dede Westbrook (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevor Knight, 316-179-2,300-12, 14 TDs
Rushing: Samaje Perine, 263 att., 1,713 yds., 21 TDs
Receiving: Sterling Shepard, 51 rec., 970 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Dominique Alexander, 107
Sacks: Eric Striker, 9.0
Interceptions: Zack Sanchez, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

National Forecast: 28
Big 12 Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Mike Gundy
Record at School: 84-44 (10 years)
Career Record: 84-44 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Yurcich
Defensive Coordinator: Glenn Spencer
Stillwater, OK
Boone Pickens Stadium (60,218)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Central Michigan
12 Central Arkansas
19 UTSA
26 at Texas

OCTOBER
3 Kansas State
10 at West Virginia
24 Kansas
31 at Texas Tech

NOVEMBER
7 TCU
14 at Iowa State
21 Baylor
28 Oklahoma

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-5)

Aug.	30	vs. Florida State %		L	31-37
Sept.	6	Missouri State		W	40-23
Sept.	13	UTSA		W	43-13
Sept.	25	Texas Tech		W	45-35
Oct.	4	Iowa State		W	37-20
Oct.	11	at Kansas		W	27-20
Oct.	18	at TCU		L	9-42
Oct.	25	West Virginia		L	10-34
Nov.	1	at Kansas State		L	14-48
Nov.	15	Texas		L	7-28
Nov.	22	at Baylor		L	28-49
Dec.	6	at Oklahoma	(ot)	W	38-35
Jan.	2	vs. Washington #		W	30-22

%Arlington #Cactus Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darrion Daniels, DT, Dallas, TX
2. John Kolar, OB, Norman, OK
3. Kevin Henry, LB, Baton Rouge, LA
4. Chris Carson, RB, Lilburn, GA*
5. Kenneth McGruder, DB, Alief, TX
6. Louis Brown, DE, Burton, TX
7. Motekiai Maile, DT, Euless, TX*
8. Vaimoe Sekona, OL, Encino, CA
9. Johnny Wilson, OL, Midland, TX
10. Taaj Bakari, Mansfield, TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

OSU's average points per game in 2014, the least prolific number for the Pokes since the first year of the Mike Gundy era (2005).

27.6

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	27.6 ppg	7	73
Rushing	136.6 ypg	7	99
Passing	242.2 ypg	7	53
Total	378.8 ypg	7	82
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	31.2 ppg	7	92
Rushing	162.8 ypg	5	57
Passing	269.2 ypg	8	110
Total	432.0 ypg	7	91
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-8	-0.62	8	109

OFFENSE Mike Gundy didn't want to use quarterback Mason Rudolph in 2014. He still carries a trace of regret for doing so.

A tiny trace.

Rudolph, forced into action by injury in the season's 10th game last fall, tossed aside his redshirt, fueled Oklahoma State's late surge and provided much of the momentum that has the Cowboys as a stealthy pick to contend in the Big 12.

The Cowboys were mired in a four-game losing streak that would stretch to five in Rudolph's first start, which became necessary due to injury. Yet even in that 49–28 loss to Baylor, Rudolph goosed a scuffling Oklahoma State offense with his live arm and moxie.

Then he led an upset of Bedlam rival Oklahoma, pushing the Cowboys to 6–6 and bowl eligibility. And he was at it again in the Cactus Bowl against Washington, directing another win and driving optimism for a big season ahead.

"The best thing we did last year," Gundy said, "was play him at the end of the year, when all the discussions were, 'Do you play him or not?'"

Rudolph will have plenty of playmakers at his disposal, particularly at receiver, where nine of the top 10 pass catchers return, headlined by Brandon Sheperd and James Washington, physical and fast receivers who can dominate defensive backs. And there's more, many more, including intriguing redshirt freshman Keenen Brown, a big wideout who wowed with the big spring.

The offensive line should be improved, bolstered by the addition of left tackle Victor Salako, a 6'6", 330-pounder with 23 career starts, freed to move when UAB dissolved its football program.

There are questions at running back, although one answer could come in August when four-star junior college recruit Chris Carson arrives.

DEFENSE Overworked a year ago due to depth concerns and an offense that struggled through the heart of the schedule, the Cowboys defense now looks loaded.

There's star power at every level, beginning with defensive end Emmanuel Ogbah, who emerged as a force in 2014. Using his strength and burst on the edge, he amassed 11 sacks, 17 tackles for a loss and the Big 12 Defensive Lineman of the Year award.

Ogbah is flanked by productive senior Jimmy Bean at the other end, giving the Cowboys strong bookends to accompany two new tackles. One of the major spring developments was sophomore Vincent Taylor's emergence as a force inside.

Senior Ryan Simmons leads a promising young linebacking corps that runs three deep, while cornerback Kevin Peterson is the heart of a secondary that is also young yet talented.

SPECIALISTS Ben Grogan followed a shaky freshman season by missing three of his first five field goal tries a year ago. Then he drilled 20 of his last 23, finishing ninth nationally at 1.69 field goals made per game and transforming into a reliable weapon. The Cowboys will have a new punter. Return men are also needed, although capable candidates should be found from a surplus of receivers.

FINAL ANALYSIS With the loss of 28 seniors leaving an inexperienced cast to try and contend in the Big 12, the 2014 season always figured to be a rebuilding effort. And it played out as such, turning worse when injuries and a lack of depth left the Cowboys exposed.

But Rudolph's arrival, both to the lineup and as a key piece to the future, reversed course and momentum. Now there's talk that Oklahoma State, like TCU a year ago, could rise from seventh place to the top of the Big 12 in 2015.



MASON RUDOLPH

Layne Murdoch Jr.

"The (Mason Rudolph) kid was impressive, getting thrown into the fire late and handling the situation so well."

-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	28	James Washington (So.)	3	**Marcell Ateman (Jr.)**	
WR	7	**Brandon Sheperd (Sr.)**	6	Keenen Brown (Fr.)	
WR	13	**David Glidden (Sr.)**	17	Austin Hays (Jr.)	
WR	81	**Jhajuan Seales (Jr.)**	15	Chris Lacy (So.)	
LT	73	Victor Salako (Jr.)	78	Matthew Mucha (Fr.)	
LG	74	**Michael Wilson (Jr.)**	68	Deionte Noel (Fr.)	
C	71	Brad Lundblade (So.)	57	**Paul Lewis (Jr.)**	
RG	64	Jesse Robinson (So.)	66	Lemaefe Galea'i (Fr.)	
RT	60	**Zachary Crabtree (So.)**	76	Colby Hegwood (Sr.)	
QB	10	Mason Rudolph (So.)	4	J.W. Walsh (Sr.)	
RB	23	Rennie Childs (Jr.)		Chris Carson (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	38	**Emmanuel Ogbah (Jr.)**	94	Jordan Brailford (Fr.)
DT	96	Vincent Taylor (So.)	56	Motekiai Maile (Jr.)
DT	95	Vili Leveni (So.)	70	Ben Hughes (So.)
DE	92	**Jimmy Bean (Sr.)**	90	Trace Clark (Sr.)
LB	52	**Ryan Simmons (Sr.)**	45	Chad Whitener (So.)
LB	10	**Seth Jacobs (Jr.)**	40	Devante Averette (Jr.)
LB	20	Jordan Burton (Jr.)	9	Gyasi Akem (So.)
CB	1	**Kevin Peterson (Sr.)**	2	Darius Curry (So.)
CB	18	**Ramon Richards (So.)**	6	Ashton Lampkin (Jr.)
SS	7	Tre Flowers (So.)	5	Jerel Morrow (So.)
FS	13	**Jordan Sterns (Jr.)**	16	Deric Robertson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Ben Grogan (Jr.)	KR	28	James Washington (So.)
P	29	Zach Sinor (Fr.)	PR	13	David Glidden (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dax Garman, 277-152-2,041-12, 12 TDs
Rushing: Rennie Childs, 78 att., 294 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: David Glidden, 42 rec., 598 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Sterns, 103
Sacks: Emmanuel Ogbah, 11.0
Interceptions: Ramon Richards, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

TCU HORNED FROGS

National Forecast: 5
Big 12 Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Gary Patterson
Record at School: 132-45 (14 years)
Career Record: 132-45 (14 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Sonny Cumbie, Doug Meacham
Co-Defensive Coordinator:
DeMontie Cross, Chad Glasgow
Fort Worth, TX
Amon G. Carter Stadium (45,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 at Minnesota
12 Stephen F. Austin
19 SMU
26 at Texas Tech

OCTOBER
3 Texas
10 at Kansas State
17 at Iowa State
29 West Virginia

NOVEMBER
7 at Oklahoma State
14 Kansas
21 at Oklahoma
27 Baylor

2014 RESULTS (12-1, 8-1)

Aug.	30	Samford	W	48-14
Sept.	13	Minnesota	W	30-7
Sept.	27	at SMU	W	56-0
Oct.	4	Oklahoma	W	37-33
Oct.	11	at Baylor	L	58-61
Oct.	18	Oklahoma State	W	42-9
Oct.	25	Texas Tech	W	82-27
Nov.	1	at West Virginia	W	31-30
Nov.	8	Kansas State	W	41-20
Nov.	15	at Kansas	W	34-30
Nov.	27	at Texas	W	48-10
Dec.	6	Iowa State	W	55-3
Dec.	31	vs. Ole Miss #	W	42-3

#Peach Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. DeShawn Raymond, CB, Metairie, LA
2. Breylin Mitchell, DE, Round Rock, TX
3. Sam Awolope, OL, Missouri City, TX
4. Tony James, WR, Arlington, TX
5. Jarrison Stewart, WR, Mesquite, TX
6. Jaelan Austin, WR, Grand Prairie, TX
7. Semaj Thomas, LB, Fort Worth, TX
8. Alec Dunham, LB, Coldspring, TX
9. Jozie Milton, C, Clinton, LA
10. Mike Freeze, LB, Weatherford, TX

TCU's field position margin in 2014, best in the country. Frogs were a field-flipping machine with efficiency and special teams.

STAT CORNER
+9.9

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	46.5 ppg	2	2
Rushing	206.8 ypg	3	34
Passing	326.2 ypg	3	7
Total	533.0 ypg	2	5
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	19.0 ppg	1	8
Rushing	108.8 ypg	2	9
Passing	233.0 ypg	4	75
Total	341.8 ypg	1	18
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+18	+1.38	1	3

OFFENSE Trevone Boykin set eight school records last year in his first full season as a quarterback, throwing for 3,901 yards and 33 touchdowns and ranking fourth in the nation in total offense. Imagine him with a year of experience in the "Air Raid" offense installed last season.

He won't be the only one who can gain from a year of experience. His top receiver, Josh Doctson, set his own single-season school records for yards and touchdown catches. Kolby Listenbee emerged as a stretch-the-field vertical receiver. Deante' Gray showcased home-run speed out of the slot.

Running back Aaron Green ran for almost 1,000 yards despite not starting until November. Kyle Hicks, a sophomore the Horned Frogs flipped from Texas two years ago, could be primed for heavier action, and former Nebraska four-star running back Shaun Nixon is back from an ACL injury.

Everyone will operate behind an offensive line that returns four starters with 74 starts among them, including third-year starting center Joey Hunt. Right tackle Hala Vaitai will move to the left side, so not all four returners are in the same spots. But the staff believes another offseason of work in the system will yield benefits for everyone.

DEFENSE TCU coach Gary Patterson has a reputation for enjoying defensive rebuilds. Well, he has one on his hands this time with the loss of both his linebackers, including leading tackler and All-America senior Paul Dawson, and the team leader in interceptions, safety Chris Hackett, who surprised him with an early entry into the NFL Draft.

Linebackers get a lot of responsibility in the 4-2-5, so Patterson emphasized athleticism and awareness with early enrollees Mike Freeze and Alec Dunham.

For the secondary, the Horned Frogs are looking for speed and height at Hackett's spot, and 6'2" senior Kenny Iloka got the first shot. At cornerback, the Frogs will be young with another early enrollee, four-star Louisiana freshman DeShawn Raymond, but incumbent Ranthony Texada started all 13 games as a freshman a year ago. Patterson may hedge his bet at corner with a look at receivers Gray and Cameron Echols-Luper.

Defensive tackle Davion Pierson, whose 31 starts are the most on the team, leads the unit least affected by graduation. Nebraska transfer Aaron Curry has big-game experience but hasn't played in a year.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Jaden Oberkrom and punter Ethan Perry both enter their fourth seasons. Oberkrom, who won the pressure-packed West Virginia road game on a last-second kick, is the nation's active leader with 58 field goals and third in Big 12 history in percentage made over 40 yards. Perry ranked eighth in the nation with 45.3 percent of his punts downed inside the 20. TCU allowed minus-9 yards in punt returns all year. Echols-Luper returned a punt for a TD at Kansas.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a very good team, with experience and playmaking at the offensive skill positions, and a reliable history of defense under Patterson. But the Horned Frogs have their sights set on being more than very good. Last season convinced them they could go undefeated even in the Big 12 and be a CFB Playoff team. But first, the Horned Frogs will have to win on the road. They left Texas only twice last season before the bowl game. This year, it will be five times, including a late-season trip to Norman before the final showdown against Baylor. Performing in hostile environments and managing expectations may be the toughest challenges of all.


TREVONE BOYKIN

"If you go down the schedule, you'd say they're favored in every game. They still have to go out and do it."

-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

XR	7	**Kolby Listenbee (Sr.)**	1	Emanuel Porter (So.)	
YR	13	**Ty Slanina (Jr.)**	85	Corey McBride (Fr.)	
ZR	9	**Josh Doctson (Sr.)**	81	Ja'Juan Story (Sr.)	
HR	20	**Deante' Gray (Sr.)**	10	Desmon White (So.)	
LT	74	**Hala Vaitai (Sr.)**	69	Aviante Collins (Sr.)	
LG	77	**Jamelle Naff (Sr.)**	72	Bobby Thompson (Sr.)	
C	55	**Joey Hunt (Sr.)**		Jozie Milton (Fr.)	
RG	65	**Brady Foltz (Sr.)**	64	Matt Pryor (So.)	
RT	68	Joseph Noteboom (So.)	51	Austin Schlottman (So.)	
QB	2	**Trevone Boykin (Sr.)**	6	Bram Kohlhausen (Sr.)	
RB	22	**Aaron Green (Sr.)**	3	Shaun Nixon (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

LE	40	James McFarland (Sr.)	94	**Josh Carraway (Jr.)**	
DT	95	Aaron Curry (Jr.)	99	Tevin Lawson (Jr.)	
DT	57	**Davion Pierson (Sr.)**	97	Chris Bradley (So.)	
RE	90	**Terrell Lathan (Sr.)**	93	Mike Tuaua (Sr.)	
MLB	34	Mike Freeze (Fr.)	42	Ty Summers (Fr.)	
SLB	35	Sammy Douglas (Jr.)	23	Alec Dunham (Fr.)	
CB	11	**Ranthony Texada (So.)**	16	Torrance Mosley (So.)	
CB	2	Corry O'Meally (Sr.)	17	DeShawn Raymond (Fr.)	
SS	30	Denzel Johnson (Jr.)	32	Travin Howard (So.)	
FS	26	**Derrick Kindred (Sr.)**	18	Nick Orr (So.)	
WS	6	Kenny Iloka (Sr.)	31	Ridwan Issahaku (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	33	Jaden Oberkrom (Sr.)	KR	11	Ranthony Texada (So.)
P	37	Ethan Perry (Sr.)	PR	15	Cameron Echols-Luper (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevone Boykin, 492-301-3,901-10, 33 TDs
Rushing: Aaron Green, 129 att., 922 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Josh Doctson, 65 rec., 1,018 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Derrick Kindred, 79
Sacks: James McFarland, 7.0
Interceptions: Derrick Kindred, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta

TEXAS LONGHORNS

National Forecast: 33
Big 12 Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Charlie Strong
Record at School: 6-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 43-23 (5+ years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Shawn Watson, Joe Wickline
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Bedford
Austin, TX • Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (100,119)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Notre Dame	
12	Rice	
19	California	
26	Oklahoma State	
OCTOBER		
3	at TCU	
10	vs. Oklahoma #	
24	Kansas State	
31	at Iowa State	
NOVEMBER		
7	Kansas	
14	at West Virginia	
26	Texas Tech	
DECEMBER		
5	at Baylor	

#Dallas

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 5-4)

Aug.	30	North Texas	W	38-7
Sept.	6	BYU	L	7-41
Sept.	13	vs. UCLA %	L	17-20
Sept.	27	at Kansas	W	23-0
Oct.	4	Baylor	L	7-28
Oct.	11	vs. Oklahoma &	L	26-31
Oct.	18	Iowa State	W	48-45
Oct.	25	at Kansas State	L	0-23
Nov.	1	at Texas Tech	W	34-13
Nov.	8	West Virginia	W	33-16
Nov.	15	at Oklahoma State	W	28-7
Nov.	27	TCU	L	10-48
Dec.	29	vs. Arkansas #	L	7-31

%Arlington &Dallas #Texas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Malik Jefferson, LB, Mesquite, TX
2. Anthony Wheeler, LB, Dallas, TX
3. Chris Warren III, RB, Rockwall, TX
4. Holton Hill, CB, Houston, TX
5. Kris Boyd, CB, Gilmer, TX
6. Patrick Vahe, OL, Euless, TX
7. John Burt, WR, Tallahassee, FL
8. DeShon Elliott, S, Rockwall, TX
9. Devonaire Clarington, TE, Miami, FL
10. Ryan Newsome, WR, Aledo, TX

STAT CORNER

Tyrone Swoopes' passer rating. The national average is in the 130s. He was below 100 in five games and three of the last four.

116.5

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big12	National
Scoring	21.4 ppg	9	106
Rushing	137.4 ypg	6	98
Passing	199.9 ypg	10	88
Total	337.3 ypg	9	110
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	23.8 ppg	3	31
Rushing	164.3 ypg	6	59
Passing	184.2 ypg	1	11
Total	348.5 ypg	2	25
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-3	-0.23	6	81

OFFENSE Gone is the pro-style offense installed last year for quarterbacks David Ash (medical hardship) and Max Wittek, a graduate-transfer prospect who never graduated from USC.

The offense has been replaced by an up-tempo, spread attack that should feature the dual-threat talents of Tyrone Swoopes, redshirt freshman Jerrod Heard and incoming freshman Kai Locksley.

Swoopes, who went 5–7 as the starter in 2014 with 13 TD passes and 11 INTs, was still the team's No. 1 QB coming out of the spring. But Heard had "really closed the gap," according to head coach Charlie Strong. And quarterbacks coach Shawn Watson said the development of Heard was "the single-most important thing" that happened to the team in the spring. There's a chance coaches will play both QBs early in the season until one truly separates.

Senior Johnathan Gray leads a talented group of running backs that includes redshirt freshman Donald "Duke" Catalon and sophomore D'Onta Foreman, a 231-pound bruiser who averaged 4.9 yards per carry.

The big questions on offense are on the line and at receiver. Six offensive linemen, including four early enrollees, were signed in the 2015 class to beef up a group devoid of talent and depth last season. At receiver, coaches want multiple playmakers to emerge after the departure of 1,000-yard receiver John Harris. But none of the leading candidates are proven.

DEFENSE The D-line is the strength of the football team. Senior tackle Desmond Jackson, who is returning from a lisfranc (foot) injury, and Hassan Ridgeway lead a deep and talented group of tackles and ends.

Linebacker is a big question mark after losing the team's top two tacklers from last season — Jordan Hicks and Steve Edmond. Coaches will turn first to senior Peter Jinkens and junior Tim Cole. If those two don't step up, the linebacking corps will be taken over by a highly decorated group of freshmen, including Ed Freeman and five-star early enrollee Malik Jefferson.

Coaches had high hopes for senior corners Duke Thomas and Sheroid Evans. But Evans suffered a serious knee injury in the spring and is likely lost for the season. Like the linebacker position, a very talented group of freshmen could take over at corner. At safety, Jason Hall is a big hitter, and former walk-on Dylan Haines led the team in interceptions (four) last season.

SPECIALISTS Texas had some of the nation's worst special teams last season. Strong hired Jeff Traylor, a highly successful coach at perennial power Gilmer High in East Texas, to improve things as tight ends/special teams coach. Texas will count on kicker Nick Rose, who is 14-of-21 on career field-goal attempts, and walk-on punter Mitchell Becker. Speedsters Daje Johnson, Jacorey Warrick and freshman Ryan Newsome hope to improve an anemic return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Charlie Strong is still rebuilding in many ways after replacing his offense as well as two assistant coaches (Strong fired receivers coach Les Koenning and tight ends coach Bruce Chambers) after one season. Strong brought in former Oklahoma co-OC Jay Norvell as receivers coach, and Traylor replaced Chambers.

The defense will undoubtedly be the strength again this year. Special teams must improve. But it will be the direction of an offense that averaged an anemic 21.4 points per game in 2014 that will determine the fate of the Longhorns this season.

With a schedule that includes road games against potential top-10 teams Notre Dame, TCU and Baylor, the quarterback play has to lead a turnaround in 2015 or the results could be very similar to last year's 6–7.



JOHNATHAN GRAY

"They're very proud down there. They're very talented. I don't think that staff's going to let them accept mediocrity."

-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	84	Lorenzo Joe (So.)	89	Dorian Leonard (So.)	
WR	**7**	**Marcus Johnson (Sr.)**		John Burt (Fr.)	
WR	23	Daje Johnson (Sr.)	11	Jacorey Warrick (Jr.)	
LT	55	Connor Williams (Fr.)	**65**	**Marcus Hutchins (Sr.)**	
LG	**66**	**Sedrick Flowers (Sr.)**	58	Brandon Hodges (Jr.)	
C	**74**	**Taylor Doyle (Sr.)**		Patrick Vahe (Fr.)	
RG	**76**	**Kent Perkins (Jr.)**	72	Elijah Rodriguez (Fr.)	
RT	75	Tristan Nickelson (So.)	71	Camrhon Hughes (Jr.)	
TE	47	Andrew Beck (So.)	80	Blake Whiteley (So.)	
QB	**18**	**Tyrone Swoopes (Jr.)**	13	Jerrod Heard (Fr.)	
RB	32	Johnathan Gray (Sr.)	21	Duke Catalon (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	1	Shiro Davis (Sr.)	91	Bryce Cottrell (Jr.)
DT	99	Desmond Jackson (Sr.)	93	Paul Boyette (Jr.)
DT	**98**	**Hassan Ridgeway (Jr.)**	95	Poona Ford (So.)
DE	**40**	**Naashon Hughes (So.)**	46	Malik Jefferson (Fr.)
LB	35	Edwin Freeman (Fr.)	30	Tim Cole (Jr.)
LB	46	Malik Jefferson (Fr.)	19	Peter Jinkens (Sr.)
NB	24	John Bonney (Fr.)	15	Bryson Echols (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Duke Thomas (Sr.)**		Kris Boyd (Fr.)
CB		Holton Hill (Fr.)		Davante Davis (Fr.)
S	**14**	**Dylan Haines (Jr.)**		DeShon Elliott (Fr.)
S	**31**	**Jason Hall (So.)**		P.J. Locke (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	23	Nick Rose (Sr.)	KR	23	Daje Johnson (Sr.)
P	38	Mitchell Becker (So.)	PR	11	Jacorey Warrick (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyrone Swoopes, 384-224-2,409-11, 13 TDs
Rushing: Johnathan Gray, 147 att., 637 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Marcus Johnson, 27 rec., 313 yds., 1 TDs
Tackles: Dylan Haines, 86
Sacks: Hassan Ridgeway, 6.0
Interceptions: Dylan Haines, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

National Forecast: 48
Big 12 Prediction: 8

Head Coach: Kliff Kingsbury
Record at School: 12-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 12-13 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Morris
Defensive Coordinator: David Gibbs
Lubbock, TX • Jones AT&T Stadium (60,454)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Sam Houston State
12 UTEP
19 at Arkansas
26 TCU

OCTOBER
3 Baylor
10 Iowa State
17 at Kansas
24 at Oklahoma
31 Oklahoma State

NOVEMBER
7 at West Virginia
14 Kansas State
26 at Texas

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 2-7)

Aug.	30	Central Arkansas	W	42-35
Sept.	6	at UTEP	W	30-26
Sept.	13	Arkansas	L	28-49
Sept.	25	at Oklahoma State	L	35-45
Oct.	4	at Kansas State	L	13-45
Oct.	11	West Virginia	L	34-37
Oct.	18	Kansas	W	34-21
Oct.	25	at TCU	L	27-82
Nov.	1	Texas	L	13-34
Nov.	15	Oklahoma	L	30-42
Nov.	22	at Iowa State	W	34-31
Nov.	29	vs. Baylor #	L	46-48

#Arlington

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Breiden Fehoko, DT, Honolulu, HI
2. J.F. Thomas, WR, Dallas, TX
3. Corey Dauphine, RB, Port Arthur, TX
4. Conner Dyer, OT, Mesquite, TX
5. Madison Akamnonu, OT, Arlington, TX
6. Jamile Johnson, DB, Dallas, TX
7. Tony Brown, WR, La Mirada, CA
8. Keke Coutee, WR, Lufkin, TX
9. D'Vonta Hinton, LB, Texas City, TX
10. Trace Ellison, OT, Frisco, TX

STAT CORNER

13.4

Percentage of rushes by Tech opponents that were stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage, worst among Power 5 teams.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	30.5 ppg	6	52
Rushing	153.0 ypg	5	80
Passing	351.1 ypg	2	5
Total	504.1 ypg	3	10
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	41.3 ppg	10	123
Rushing	259.5 ypg	10	121
Passing	253.2 ypg	6	95
Total	512.7 ypg	9	122
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-13	-1.08	9	116

OFFENSE Texas Tech's quarterbacks production was up and down throughout the 2014 season. Sophomore Davis Webb started the team's first eight games before being shut down for the season due to a shoulder injury. True freshman Patrick Mahomes replaced Webb in the lineup and showed enough promise to emerge as a strong candidate to earn the job in the fall.

The offense as a unit was inconsistent and prone to turnovers. But with eight starters back, the Red Raiders are hoping to build on the last few games of the year when they finally seemed to get things on track.

The two strengths are the starting offensive line, which will return four veterans, including all-conference left tackle Le'Raven Clark, and running back, led by DeAndre Washington. The Red Raiders are looking for consistency at receiver as a young group turned in an uneven performance in 2014. Jakeem Grant is the leader of the pack, and the shifty senior should be a versatile weapon for the offense. Devin Lauderdale and Ian Sadler both emerged late in the year, but they'll need to build upon that success if Texas Tech is to take a step forward this fall. The coaches are hoping that junior Reginald Davis will step up — he has loads of talent but has yet to realize his potential.

Ultimately, the Red Raiders' offense will go as the quarterback goes. If the winner between Webb and Mahomes can limit turnovers and produce at an above-average level, Texas Tech should return to the postseason in 2015.

DEFENSE The word of the offseason around the Texas Tech football office is turnovers. The offense is focused on reducing the amount committed, and the defense, led by new coordinator David Gibbs, is focused on forcing them.

Gibbs' defense at Houston did a fantastic job of forcing turnovers over the last two seasons, and the hope in Lubbock is that he can duplicate some of that magic on the South Plains.

In the secondary, Gibbs will have some experience and potential with which to work, including sophomore corner Nigel Bethel and safety Keenon Ward. At linebacker, senior Micah Awe is the only experienced, veteran piece. But there are interesting options, including linebacker Dakota Allen and former five-star prospect and Ohio State transfer Mike Mitchell.

The defensive line returns all but one player, including Big 12 sack leader Pete Robertson (12 sacks in 2014) at one end and senior Branden Jackson on the other. Things must improve on the interior, however, as former junior college transfers Rika Levi and Keland McElrath are being relied upon to take big steps forward, which they appeared to do in the spring. It's a unit that must improve if Tech is to make a bowl, and things appear to be moving in the right direction.

SPECIALISTS Clayton Hatfield, a former U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection, will compete with Michael Barden and Taylor Symmank for the starting placekicking job. Hatfield has a big leg and likely has the edge. Symmank is expected to be the Red Raiders' starting punter. The coverage units should take another step forward with an influx of young talent from among the incoming freshmen.

FINAL ANALYSIS In Year 3 of Kliff Kingsbury's tenure, two things are very clear: The offense must find some consistency and the defense simply has to be better. The addition of Gibbs should help stabilize the ailing defense, but all bets are off until they hit the field this fall. The big key, however, is at quarterback. The winner of the Mahomes vs. Webb battle must play at a high level for Texas Tech to return to form.



DEANDRE WASHINGTON

"How many dynamic playmakers do they have? I'm not so sure. They don't have as many as other people do."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	6	Devin Lauderdale (Jr.)		J.F. Thomas (Fr.)	
WR	11	**Jakeem Grant (Sr.)**	80	Cameron Batson (So.)	
WR	12	Ian Sadler (So.)	83	Brad Pearson (Sr.)	
WR	2	**Reginald Davis (Jr.)**	14	Dylan Cantrell (Jr.)	
LT	62	**Le'Raven Clark (Sr.)**	73	Justin Murphy (Fr.)	
LG	56	**Alfredo Morales (Sr.)**	72	Robert Castaneda (Fr.)	
C	75	**Jared Kaster (Sr.)**	65	Baylen Brown (Jr.)	
RG	65	**Baylen Brown (Jr.)**	72	Robert Castenda (Fr.)	
RT	73	Justin Murphy (Fr.)		Conner Dyer (Fr.)	
QB	5	Patrick Mahomes II (So.)	7	**Davis Webb (Jr.)**	
RB	21	**DeAndre Washington (Sr.)**	4	Justin Stockton (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	10	**Pete Robertson (Sr.)**	6	Kris Williams (Jr.)	
DT	99	Rika Levi (Sr.)	58	Josh Outlaw (So.)	
DT	90	Keland McElrath (Sr.)	4	Breiden Fehoko (Fr.)	
DE	9	**Branden Jackson (Sr.)**	5	Gary Moore (So.)	
OLB	52	Mike Mitchell (So.)	41	Malik Jenkins (Jr.)	
MLB	18	Micah Awe (Sr.)	40	Dakota Allen (Fr.)	
OLB	25	Sam Atoe (Sr.)	11	Jacarthy Mack (So.)	
CB	1	**Nigel Bethel II (So.)**	20	**Tevin Madison (So.)**	
CB	31	**Justis Nelson (Jr.)**	7	D.J. Polite-Bray (Jr.)	
S	15	**Keenon Ward (Jr.)**	19	Jalen Barnes (So.)	
S	3	**J.J. Gaines (Sr.)**	24	Payton Hendrix (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Taylor Symmank (Sr.)	KR	11	Jakeem Grant (Sr.)
P	42	Taylor Symmank (Sr.)	PR	80	Cameron Batson (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Davis Webb, 345-211-2,539-13, 24 TDs
Rushing: DeAndre Washington, 188 att., 1,103 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jakeem Grant, 67 rec., 938 tds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Pete Robertson, 81
Sacks: Pete Robertson, 12.0
Interceptions: J.J. Gaines, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Layne Murdoch

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

National Forecast: 36
Big 12 Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Dana Holgorsen
Record at School: 28-23 (4 years)
Career Record: 28-23 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dana Holgorsen
Defensive Coordinator: Tony Gibson
Morgantown, WV
Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Georgia Southern
12 Liberty
26 Maryland

OCTOBER
3 at Oklahoma
10 Oklahoma State
17 at Baylor
29 at TCU

NOVEMBER
7 Texas Tech
14 Texas
21 at Kansas
28 Iowa State

DECEMBER
5 at Kansas State

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 5-4)

Aug.	30	vs. Alabama %	L	23-33
Sept.	6	Towson	W	54-0
Sept.	13	at Maryland	W	40-37
Sept.	20	Oklahoma	L	33-45
Oct.	4	Kansas	W	33-14
Oct.	11	at Texas Tech	W	37-34
Oct.	18	Baylor	W	41-27
Oct.	25	at Oklahoma State	W	34-10
Nov.	1	TCU	L	30-31
Nov.	8	at Texas	L	16-33
Nov.	20	Kansas State	L	20-26
Nov.	29	at Iowa State	W	37-24
Dec.	29	vs. Texas A&M #	L	37-45

%Atlanta #Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jovon Durante, WR, Hollywood, FL
2. Tyrek Cole, CB, Hallandale, FL
3. Rasul Douglas, CB, East Orange, NJ *
4. David Sills, QB, Elkton, MD
5. Matt Jones, OL, Hubbard, OH
6. Stone Wolfley, TE, Morgantown, WV
7. Rob Dowdy, OL, Westerville, OH
8. Jordan Adams, CB, Reisterstown, MD
9. Larry Jefferson, DE, College Park, GA. *
10. David Long, LB, Cincinnati, OH

*junior college transfer

WVU's field position margin in 2014, 114th in the country. Bad punting and punt returns gave away offensive gains.

STAT CORNER
-3.9

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	33.5 ppg	5	34
Rushing	182.8 ypg	4	43
Passing	317.0 ypg	4	9
Total	499.8 ypg	4	12
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	27.6 ppg	6	72
Rushing	168.2 ypg	7	63
Passing	231.2 ypg	3	71
Total	399.4 ypg	6	66
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-15	-1.15	10	119

OFFENSE Dana Holgorsen's offense bounced back last season after a sub-par 2013. West Virginia finished in the top 10 nationally in passing yards and was No. 12 in total offense (499.8 ypg). Now, though, all-world receiver Kevin White, outside threat Mario Alford and quarterback Clint Trickett are all gone.

Perhaps no decision in Holgorsen's career will be as important as tabbing the new quarterback. In the last three seasons, WVU is 18–20, so the heat is on. Holgorsen is hoping junior Skyler Howard can save the day. Howard, a former junior college transfer, replaced Trickett at the end of last season and completed 56-of-110 passes for 829 yards and eight touchdowns. "He's still pretty raw," Holgorsen says, "so he will continue to get better."

Watch the Mountaineers run game, however. If starting tailback Rushel Shell can stay healthy — which he didn't last season — WVU will feature a player running backs coach Ja'Juan Seider compares to Marshawn Lynch. Shell, a former five-star recruit who began his career at Pitt, rushed for 788 yards in 2014 despite being limited at times by a severely sprained ankle.

WVU, however, will have to rotate bodies on the offensive line, and the receiving corps — which lost some elite talent — is largely unproven.

DEFENSE Second-year WVU defensive coordinator Tony Gibson isn't shy about the defense he's ready to put on the field. "I'm not going to hide behind it," he says. "If we're not great on defense, that's directly on me. I told our defensive kids that. If we're not really good on defense — the best in this league — I'm going to be disappointed."

There are holes. The Mountaineers were No. 95 nationally in sacks (20) and No. 63 against the run last year, and the line doesn't seem appreciably better. Nose tackle Kyle Rose also got into legal trouble in the spring.

The linebackers and secondary seem to be solid. The best of the linebackers is Nick Kwiatkoski, a standout senior who was moved from the middle to the strong side to accommodate Jared Barber, back from a knee injury. Kwiatkoski led the defense last season with 103 tackles. Gibson has all three starters back at safety in seniors Karl Joseph and KJ Dillon and sophomore sensation Dravon Henry. Cornerback Daryl Worley missed spring drills after shoulder surgery but has shown flashes of brilliance.

SPECIALISTS Returning placekicker Josh Lambert was a Lou Groza Award finalist. But the Mountaineers' kickoff return defense was ranked No. 92 nationally last season. Strong-legged punter Nick O'Toole (aka "Boomstache") is averaging 43.1 yards per kick over his two seasons in Morgantown. Yet West Virginia was a woeful No. 124 nationally in punt returns, averaging a paltry 3.0 yards — when the Mountaineers caught the ball. There were countless muffs. It was so bad that at times Holgorsen went without a punt returner, choosing to simply let the opposing kicks bounce. He's hoping Jordan Thompson, Vernon Davis, Jacky Marcellus or Lamar Parker — all 5'10" or smaller — can handle the duty this season.

FINAL ANALYSIS West Virginia, which has been either 4–5 or 5–4 in two of its three seasons in the Big 12, should once again be in the middle of the pack in the league standings.

With the exception of what seems to be a quirky 2013 campaign, Holgorsen continues to crank out fine offenses. Pair that with what should be a solid defense — especially if you believe Gibson, the unit's coordinator — and the Mountaineers look like a solid a bowl team that isn't quite good enough to contend for a conference title.


KARL JOSEPH

"They're much different and much better in Morgantown. They still have to prove they can go on the road and win big games."
-An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Shelton Gibson (So.)	82	Devonte Mathis (Jr.)	
WR	4	**Wendell Smallwood (Jr.)**	19	KJ Myers (Sr.)	
WR	10	**Jordan Thompson (Sr.)**		Gary Jennings (Fr.)	
WR	6	Daikiel Shorts (Jr.)	81	Vernon Davis Jr. (Jr.)	
LT	50	Yodny Cajuste (Fr.)	73	Russell Haughton-James (Fr.)	
LG	57	**Adam Pankey (Jr.)**	71	Tyler Tezeno (So.)	
C	65	**Tyler Orlosky (Jr.)**	59	Stone Underwood (Sr.)	
RG	69	Tony Matteo (Jr.)	79	Grant Lingafelter (So.)	
RT	78	**Marquis Lucas (Sr.)**	77	Marcell Lazard (So.)	
QB	3	Skyler Howard (Jr.)	16	William Crest (Fr.)	
RB	7	**Rushel Shell (Jr.)**	8	Donte Thomas-Williams (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	Christian Brown (Jr.)	90	Larry Jefferson (Jr.)	
NT	97	**Kyle Rose (Sr.)**	49	Darrien Howard (Jr.)	
DE	97	**Noble Nwachukwu (Jr.)**	45	Eric Kinsey (Sr.)	
SLB	35	**Nick Kwiatkoski (Sr.)**	31	Isaiah Bruce (Sr.)	
MLB	42	Jared Barber (Sr.)	17	Al-Rasheed Benton (So.)	
WLB	36	Shaq Petteway (Sr.)	20	**Edward Muldrow (Sr.)**	
SPUR	9	**KJ Dillon (Sr.)**	27	Daejuan Funderburk (Fr.)	
CB	7	**Daryl Worley (Jr.)**	14	Ricky Rumph (Sr.)	
CB	16	**Terrell Chestnut (Sr.)**		Rasul Douglas (Jr.)	
FS	6	**Dravon Henry (So.)**	24	Jeremy Tyler (Jr.)	
BS	8	**Karl Joseph (Sr.)**	22	Jarrod Harper (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	86	Josh Lambert (Jr.)	KR	1	Shelton Gibson (So.)
P	91	Nick O'Toole (Sr.)	PR	81	Vernon Davis Jr. (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Skyler Howard, 110-56-829-0, 8 TDs
Rushing: Rushel Shell, 176 att., 788 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Thompson, 49 rec., 598 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Nick Kwiatkoski, 103
Sacks: Noble Nwachukwu, 2.0
Interceptions: KJ Dillon, 3; Daryl Worley, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta

BIG TEN B1G PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	EAST	WEST
1	OHIO STATE BUCKEYES 13-0, 8-0 BIG TEN	WISCONSIN BADGERS 9-4, 6-2 BIG TEN
2	MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS 10-2, 6-2 BIG TEN	NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS 8-4, 5-3 BIG TEN
3	PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS 8-4, 4-4 BIG TEN	MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS 8-4, 5-3 BIG TEN
4	MICHIGAN WOLVERINES 7-5, 4-4 BIG TEN	IOWA HAWKEYES 7-5, 4-4 BIG TEN
5	MARYLAND TERRAPINS 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN	NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS 6-6, 4-4 BIG TEN
6	INDIANA HOOSIERS 6-6, 2-6 BIG TEN	ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN
7	RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS 5-7, 1-7 BIG TEN	PURDUE BOILERMAKERS 3-9, 1-7 BIG TEN

Big Ten Championship Game: Ohio State over Wisconsin

2014 BOWL RESULTS

National Championship Game: Ohio State 42, Oregon 20
Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal): Ohio State 42, Alabama 35
Cotton Bowl: Michigan State 42, Baylor 41
Citrus Bowl: Missouri 33, Minnesota 17
Outback Bowl: Wisconsin 34, Auburn 31, OT
Holiday Bowl: USC 45, Nebraska 42
Foster Farms Bowl: Stanford 45, Maryland 21
Pinstripe Bowl: Penn State 31, Boston College 30, OT
Heart of Dallas Bowl: Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18
Quick Lane Bowl: Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff: Ohio State vs. Auburn
Rose Bowl: Michigan State vs. USC
Citrus Bowl: Wisconsin vs. Tennessee
Outback Bowl: Nebraska vs. Arkansas
Holiday Bowl: Penn State vs. Stanford
Foster Farms Bowl: Minnesota vs. UCLA
Pinstripe Bowl: Michigan vs. Virginia Tech
Music City Bowl: Iowa vs. Missouri
Quick Lane Bowl: Northwestern vs. Pittsburgh
Armed Forces Bowl: Maryland vs. Air Force
Arizona Bowl*: Boston College vs. Illinois
Austin Bowl*: Indiana vs. Miami (Fla.)

*pending 2015 approval

Ohio State: Ric Fogel; Clement: Bruce Schwartzman

2014 BIG TEN STANDINGS

EAST	BIG TEN	OVERALL	WEST	BIG TEN	OVERALL
OHIO STATE	8-0	14-1	WISCONSIN	7-1	11-3
MICHIGAN STATE	7-1	11-2	MINNESOTA	5-3	8-5
MARYLAND	4-4	7-6	NEBRASKA	5-3	9-4
RUTGERS	3-5	8-5	IOWA	4-4	7-6
MICHIGAN	3-5	5-7	ILLINOIS	3-5	6-7
PENN STATE	2-6	7-6	NORTHWESTERN	3-5	5-7
INDIANA	1-7	4-8	PURDUE	1-7	3-9

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	4	12	8	14	11	7	12
INDIANA	5	11	11	5	14	10	14
IOWA	10	10	9	8	7	13	8
MARYLAND	11	13	6	9	12	14	10
MICHIGAN	7	4	7	6	4	4	5
MICHIGAN STATE	2	3	4	1	1	2	9
MINNESOTA	8	9	14	4	6	6	4
NEBRASKA	6	8	3	7	5	8	6
NORTHWESTERN	12	6	10	13	9	12	7
OHIO STATE	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
PENN STATE	3	7	1	11	3	3	3
PURDUE	13	14	13	10	13	11	11
RUTGERS	14	5	5	12	10	9	13
WISCONSIN	9	2	12	3	8	5	2

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Ohio State 2. Penn State 3. Michigan State 4. Nebraska
5. Wisconsin 6. Michigan 7. Illinois 8. Maryland 9. Indiana
10. Northwestern 11. Rutgers 12. Iowa 13. Minnesota 14. Purdue



PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Cardale Jones	6-5	250	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	Corey Clement	5-11	217	Jr.	Wisconsin
RB	Ezekiel Elliott	6-0	225	Jr.	Ohio State
WR	Leonte Carroo	6-1	205	Sr.	Rutgers
WR	DaeSean Hamilton	6-1	211	So.	Penn State
TE	Josiah Price	6-4	250	Jr.	Michigan State
C	Jack Allen	6-2	295	Sr.	Michigan State
OL	Jack Conklin	6-6	317	Jr.	Michigan State
OL	Taylor Decker	6-8	315	Sr.	Ohio State
OL	Pat Elflein	6-3	300	Jr.	Ohio State
OL	Tyler Marz	6-5	321	Sr.	Wisconsin
AP	De'Mornay Pierson-El	5-9	185	So.	Nebraska

First-Team Defense

DE	Joey Bosa	6-6	275	Jr.	Ohio State
DE	Shilique Calhoun	6-5	250	Sr.	Michigan State
DT	Maliek Collins	6-2	300	Jr.	Nebraska
DT	Anthony Zettel	6-4	278	Sr.	Penn State
LB	Vince Biegel	6-4	244	Jr.	Wisconsin
LB	Darron Lee	6-2	235	So.	Ohio State
LB	Joshua Perry	6-4	254	Sr.	Ohio State
CB	Eli Apple	6-1	200	So.	Ohio State
CB	William Likely	5-7	175	Jr.	Maryland
S	Vonn Bell	5-11	205	Jr.	Ohio State
S	Michael Caputo	6-1	212	Sr.	Wisconsin

First-Team Specialists

K	Brad Craddock	6-0	189	Sr.	Maryland
P	Peter Mortell	6-2	191	Sr.	Minnesota
KR	Janarion Grant	5-11	175	Jr.	Rutgers
PR	De'Mornay Pierson-El	5-9	185	So.	Nebraska

Second-Team Offense

QB	Connor Cook	6-4	220	Sr.	Michigan State
RB	Jordan Howard	6-1	225	Jr.	Indiana
RB	Justin Jackson	5-11	185	So.	Northwestern
WR	Jalen Marshall	5-11	205	So.	Ohio State
WR	Michael Thomas	6-3	210	Jr.	Ohio State
TE	Jake Butt	6-6	248	Jr.	Michigan
C	Dan Voltz	6-3	311	Jr.	Wisconsin
OL	Josh Campion	6-5	310	Sr.	Minnesota
OL	Dan Feeney	6-4	305	Jr.	Indiana
OL	Alex Lewis	6-6	290	Sr.	Nebraska
OL	Jason Spriggs	6-7	305	Sr.	Indiana
AP	Curtis Samuel	5-11	200	So.	Ohio State

Second-Team Defense

DT	Darius Hamilton	6-4	255	Sr.	Rutgers
DE	Yannick Ngakoue	6-2	250	Jr.	Maryland
DE	Drew Ott	6-4	272	Sr.	Iowa
DT	Adolphus Washington	6-4	290	Sr.	Ohio State
LB	Ed Davis	6-3	233	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	Raekwon McMillan	6-2	240	So.	Ohio State
LB	Nyeem Wartman	6-1	243	Jr.	Penn State
CB	Briean Boddy-Calhoun	5-11	188	Sr.	Minnesota
CB	Eric Murray	6-0	196	Jr.	Minnesota
S	Nate Gerry	6-2	205	Jr.	Nebraska
S	Jordan Lucas	6-0	199	Sr.	Penn State

Second-Team Specialists

K	Rafael Gaglianone	5-11	231	So.	Wisconsin
P	Cameron Johnston	5-11	195	Jr.	Ohio State
KR	R.J. Shelton	5-11	200	Jr.	Michigan State
PR	Jalin Marshall	5-11	205	So.	Ohio State

INDIANA HOOSIERS

National Forecast: 60
Big Ten East Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Kevin Wilson
Record at School: 14-34 (4 years)
Career Record: 14-34 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Johns
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Knorr
Bloomington, IN
Memorial Stadium (52,929)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Southern Illinois
12 FIU
19 Western Kentucky
26 at Wake Forest

OCTOBER
3 Ohio State
10 at Penn State
17 Rutgers
24 at Michigan State

NOVEMBER
7 Iowa
14 Michigan
21 at Maryland
28 at Purdue

2014 RESULTS (5-6, 1-7)

Aug.	30	Indiana State	W	28-10
Sept.	13	at Bowling Green	W	45-42
Sept.	20	at Missouri	W	31-27
Sept.	27	Maryland	L	15-37
Oct.	4	North Texas	W	49-24
Oct.	11	at Iowa	L	29-45
Oct.	18	Michigan State	L	17-56
Nov.	1	at Michigan	L	10-34
Nov.	8	Penn State	L	7-13
Nov.	15	at Rutgers	L	23-45
Nov.	22	at Ohio State	L	27-42
Nov.	29	Purdue	W	23-16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyler Green, DB, Waldorf, MD
2. Camion Patrick, WR, Knoxville, TN*
3. Leon Thornton, WR, Lombard, IL
4. Brandon Knight, OT, Noblesville, IN
5. Isaac James, ATH, Carmel, IN
6. Austin King, QB, Alpharetta, GA
7. Mike Majette, ATH, Woodbridge, VA
8. Hunter Littlejohn, OG, Powell, OH
9. Devonte Williams, RB, Columbia, MD
10. Jonathan Crawford DB, Largo, FL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

4.6

Average yards per target for IU players not named Shane Wynn in 2014. Wynn averaged 8.3; the national average was 7.6

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	25.1 ppg	10	87
Rushing	263.6 ypg	3	9
Passing	141.4 ypg	14	120
Total	405.0 ypg	5	61
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	32.8 ppg	13	100
Rushing	182.7 ypg	10	81
Passing	251.1 ypg	14	94
Total	433.8 ypg	11	93
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-2	-0.17	8	76

OFFENSE It's challenging for a coach to be optimistic when he's lost the best running back in school history, but that is Kevin Wilson's assignment with Tevin Coleman gone. It's Year 5 for Wilson. He's learned the Hoosiers cannot win by simply throwing (first three seasons) or running (Coleman had more than 2,000 yards last year).

The promise IU showed last season dissolved after quarterback Nate Sudfeld suffered a shoulder injury. IU was forced to play a fourth-stringer (Zander Diamont) who beat only Purdue in the season finale. Sudfeld returns for his senior season but must be more accurate than he was before his injury.

Wilson scrambled to minimize the loss of Coleman by recruiting one of the best backs available — Jordan Howard, who ran for nearly 1,600 yards and 13 touchdowns at UAB before the Blazers dropped their program. Howard lacks Coleman's big-play speed, but he's a tough, durable kid. Tommie Mister should emerge as the backup after recovering from knee surgery

Sudfeld needs help from his receivers. After last season Wilson determined that the group was undersized. He's tried to fix that by adding 6'2" Marqui Hawkins, another former UAB player, and junior-college transfer Camion Patrick, also 6'2". Jordan Fuchs is the frontrunner at tight end, while tiny J-Shun Harris has the speed to excel at slot receiver.

Wilson has worked tirelessly to upgrade the offensive line, and the results showed last season. Tackle Jason Spriggs and guard Dan Feeney are fierce and dependable anchors.

DEFENSE The numbers would give Nick Saban heartburn, but they signaled improvement for the Hoosiers. The defense improved by allowing 94 fewer yards (down to 433.8) and six fewer points (32.8) per game, but coordinator Brian Knorr's unit must take the next step of helping Indiana win.

Knorr shifted the Hoosiers into a 3-4 scheme last season. The defensive front features two playmakers — nose tackle Nate Hoff, who averaged one tackle for a loss in his eight starts, and junior Darius Lathum, an acrobatic athlete. Nick Mangieri emerged at Bandit, showing the necessary pass-rushing skills.

Indiana has not produced an NFL Draft pick at linebacker in 27 seasons. That should change soon as sophomore Tegray Scales has the speed to create turnovers. Junior T.J. Simmons and sophomore Greg Gooch will split time in the middle. Don't be surprised if Dameon Willis, another speedball, outplays Clyde Newton to play outside linebacker.

The secondary wasn't great last season, and both starting cornerbacks departed. That will be a good thing if Rashard Fant and Donovan Clark can translate their athletic ability into coverage skills. True freshmen will get a legitimate look here. Knorr expects big things from Antonio Allen and Chase Dutra at safety. Both can run and hit.

SPECIALISTS Griffin Oakes set a school record with a 58-yard field goal, one of 13 he converted on 18 tries. Erich Toth must improve his 40.7-yard punting average. Harris returned punts and kickoffs but was unable to return any kicks more than 35 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS This year matters for Wilson, who has yet to win more than five games in a season. With three years remaining on his contract, Wilson needs to deliver a bowl trip to earn an extension and love from Indiana's modest fan base. With three home games and a trip to Wake Forest to open the season, the Hoosiers need a big start before sliding into Big Ten play against Ohio State. If Sudfeld can stay healthy and the defense creates more turnovers, a six-win season is realistic.



NATE SUDFELD

"Losing the quarterback, Nate Sudfeld, just killed them. They looked like a different team without him."
— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	10	Simmie Cobbs (So.)	14	Marqui Hawkins (So.)
WR	5	J-Shun Harris (So.)	**3**	**Dominique Booth (So.)**
WR	4	Ricky Jones (Jr.)	38	Damon Graham (Sr.)
LT	**78**	**Jason Spriggs (Sr.)**	77	Dimitric Camiel (Jr.)
LG	70	Jacob Bailey (Jr.)	74	DeAndre Herron (Jr.)
C	50	Jake Reed (Sr.)	65	Wes Rogers (Jr.)
RG	**67**	**Dan Feeney (Jr.)**	57	Tim Gardner (Fr.)
RT	**62**	**Ralston Evans (Sr.)**	71	Delroy Baker (Fr.)
TE	88	Anthony Corsaro (Sr.)	85	Michael Cooper (Sr.)
QB	**7**	**Nate Sudfeld (Sr.)**	12	Zander Diamont (So.)
RB	8	Jordan Howard (Jr.)	25	Tommy Mister (Fr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**56**	**Nick Mangieri (Sr.)**	53	Shawn Heffern (Jr.)
DT	**98**	**Darius Latham (Jr.)**	93	Ralph Green III (Jr.)
DT	**74**	**Nate Hoff (So.)**	**99**	**Adarius Rayner (Sr.)**
LB	33	Zack Shaw (Sr.)	35	Nile Sykes (Fr.)
LB	**2**	**T.J. Simmons (Jr.)**	49	Greg Gooch (So.)
LB	44	Marcus Oliver (So.)	41	Clyde Newton (Jr.)
LB	8	Tegray Scales (So.)	15	Zeke Walker (Fr.)
CB	16	Rashard Fant (So.)	7	Donovan Clark (So.)
CB	5	Noel Padmore (So.)	22	Kenny Mullen (Sr.)
FS	**40**	**Antonio Allen (Jr.)**	19	Tony Fields (So.)
SS	30	Chase Dutra (So.)	26	Kiante Walton (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Griffin Oakes (So.)	KR	5	J-Shun Harris (So.)
P	36	Erich Toth (Sr.)	PR	5	J-Shun Harris (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nate Sudfeld, 167-101-1,151-3, 6 TDs
Rushing: Zander Diamont, 55 att., 133 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: J-Shun Harris II, 18 rec., 168 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Antonio Allen, 74
Sacks: Nate Hoff, 3.5
Interceptions: Tegray Scales, 3; Chase Dutra, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

National Forecast: 57
Big Ten East Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Randy Edsall
Record at School: 20-30 (4 years)
Career Record: 94-100 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Locksley
Defensive Coordinator: Keith Dudzinski i
College Park, MD • Byrd Stadium (51,802)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Richmond	
12	Bowling Green	
19	South Florida	
26	at West Virginia	
OCTOBER		
3	Michigan	
10	at Ohio State	
24	vs. Penn State #	
31	at Iowa	
NOVEMBER		
7	Wisconsin	
14	at Michigan State	
21	Indiana	
28	at Rutgers	

#Baltimore, MD

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	James Madison	W	52-7
Sept.	6	at South Florida	W	24-17
Sept.	13	West Virginia	L	37-40
Sept.	20	at Syracuse	W	34-20
Sept.	27	at Indiana	W	37-15
Oct.	4	Ohio State	L	24-52
Oct.	18	Iowa	W	38-31
Oct.	25	at Wisconsin	L	7-52
Nov.	1	at Penn State	W	20-19
Nov.	15	Michigan State	L	15-37
Nov.	22	at Michigan	W	23-16
Nov.	29	Rutgers	L	38-41
Dec.	30	vs. Stanford #	L	21-45

#Foster Farms Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Adam McLean, DL, Gaithersburg, MD
2. Quarvez Boulware, OL, Washington, DC
3. D.J. Moore, WR, Philadelphia, PA
4. EJ Donahue, OL, Moravia, MD
5. Ty Johnson, RB, Cumberland, MD
6. Gus Little, LB, Fredericksburg, VA
7. Keiron Howard, DL, Fort Washington, MD
8. Darnell Savage, CB, Newark, DE
9. Gage Shaffer, QB, Short Gap, WV
10. Brett Zanotto, LB, Murrysville, PA

STAT CORNER

The last time Maryland's leading running back averaged at least 5.0 yards per carry. Where have you gone, Davin Meggett?

2011

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	28.5 ppg	5	65
Rushing	121.8 ypg	12	108
Passing	220.2 ypg	7	72
Total	342.1 ypg	12	109
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	30.2 ppg	10	87
Rushing	201.9 ypg	12	97
Passing	234.3 ypg	13	78
Total	436.2 ypg	12	95
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
0	0.00	5	59

OFFENSE Caleb Rowe steps in at quarterback behind a bigger and better offensive line, something that the Terrapins discovered is a prerequisite in the Big Ten. Rowe has missed more time with knee injuries than he has played, but he is a strong-armed passer with enough experience to step in and make things happen, though probably not in the read-option like his predecessor C.J. Brown.

Expect a more pass-friendly offense even without departed receiver Stefon Diggs, and look for the Terrapins to try to put a little oomph in a running game that rated third from the bottom in the Big Ten with just 121.8 rushing yards per game. Leading running backs Brandon Ross and Wes Brown are back, and Juwann Winfree, Levern Jacobs and Marcus Leak are proven commodities at receiver.

The big news is the presence of redshirt freshmen Derwin Gray (if he's back from a spring shoulder injury), Damian Prince and Brendan Moore on a line that has struggled for several seasons. There's more experience around them and depth behind them, and that facet of the game is Maryland's best bet to improve.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Brian Stewart and his 3-4 defense are gone, as are nearly all of the front seven from a unit that allowed 30.2 points per game and seemed worn down by season's end. Start the rebuild under new coordinator Keith Dudzinski with what could be a great secondary. All-Big Ten corner William Likely is back, and talented senior safety Sean Davis is making the move to the other corner spot. Look for Likely and Davis to thrive in man-to-man coverage.

Heat-seeking missile Anthony Nixon is back at safety, but where's the pass rush going to come from? Junior Yannick Ngaouke, who had 13.5 tackles for a loss last season, moves from linebacker to the hybrid Bandit end position, and senior Quinton Jefferson is back from a knee injury and taking his quickness from end to tackle. Abner Logan has all the tools to be a great weak-side linebacker, and coaches loved what they saw from middle linebacker Jermaine Carter Jr. in the spring.

SPECIALISTS Brad Craddock hit 18-of-19 field goal attempts last year, keeping the Terps in a lot of games and winning a couple more. And he spent all summer trying to improve his kickoffs. Coaches love this guy. A freshman, likely big-legged Lee Shrader, will end up as punter in what has been an area of concern in recent years. The Terps are strong in the return game with Likely handling kickoffs and punts. Not only should opponents not throw to his side of the field on defense, but they should stop kicking to him, too. Special teams coach Andre Powell bolted, and the Terps will handle these coaching chores by committee this fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Terrapins surprised everyone with a seven-win season out of the gate in their first Big Ten campaign. Okay, okay, Penn State and Michigan — two big Maryland road victims — weren't exactly Penn State and Michigan last season, but the Terrapins still managed to finish 4–4 in league play.

Moving forward, there are so many variables in play — new quarterback, young but bigger and better offensive line, a new 4-3 defense and just two defensive starters back in the positions they played in 2014 — making the Terrapins a tough team to forecast. Say this at least: They've been resilient. Through devastating injuries (they're just three years removed from a freshman linebacker playing quarterback, and a running back had to play wide receiver last year) and the major move to Midwestern football, the Terrapins have stayed on course, slow and steady.



WILLIAM LIKELY

"Offensively, they were a week-to-week operation. They were very opponent-specific in their game plan."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Juwann Winfree (So.)		8	Levern Jacobs (Sr.)
WR	82	**Marcus Leak (Sr.)**		84	**Amba Etta-Tawo (Jr.)**
LT	75	Derwin Gray (Fr.)		54	JaJuan Dulaney (So.)
LG	55	**Ryan Doyle (Sr.)**		50	Evan Mulrooney (Sr.)
C	64	Brendan Moore (Fr.)		60	Stephen Grommer (Sr.)
RG	66	**Andrew Zeller (Sr.)**		70	Sean Christie (Fr.)
RT	58	Damian Prince (Fr.)		76	**Michael Dunn (Jr.)**
TE	44	Andrew Isaacs (Jr.)		48	Derrick Hayward (So.)
QB	7	Caleb Rowe (Jr.)		11	Perry Hills (Jr.)
FB	30	Kenneth Goins Jr. (Jr.)		33	Drew Stefanelli (Jr.)
RB	45	**Brandon Ross (Sr.)**		4	Wes Brown (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	7	**Yannick Ngakoue (Jr.)**	41	Jesse Aniebonam (So.)
DT	67	David Shaw (So.)	52	Malik Jones (So.)
DT	99	Quinton Jefferson (Sr.)	57	Kingsley Opara (So.)
DE	90	Roman Braglio (Jr.)	96	Brett Kulka (Fr.)
WLB	46	Abner Logan (Jr.)	42	Brock Dean (Jr.)
MLB	23	Jermaine Carter Jr. (So.)	37	Avery Thompson (Sr.)
SLB	43	Jalen Brooks (So.)	39	Cavon Walker (Jr.)
CB	4	**William Likely (Jr.)**	32	Jarrett Ross (Jr.)
CB	21	**Sean Davis (Sr.)**	27	Alvin Hill (Sr.)
S	20	**Anthony Nixon (Sr.)**	11	Denzel Conyers (Jr.)
S	19	A.J. Hendy (Sr.)	36	Elvis Dennah (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Brad Craddock (Sr.)	KR	4	William Likely (Jr.)
P	38	Lee Shrader (Fr.)	PR	4	William Likely (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Caleb Rowe, 54-34-489-4, 5 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Ross, 85 att., 419 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Wes Brown, 21 rec., 198 yds., 0 TD
Tackles: Sean Davis, 115
Sacks: Yannick Ngakoue, 6.0
Interceptions: William Likely, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Molly Riley

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

National Forecast: 34
Big Ten East Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Jim Harbaugh
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 58-27 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Drevno
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Durkin
Ann Arbor, MI
Michigan Stadium (109,901)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	at Utah	
12	Oregon State	
19	UNLV	
26	BYU	
OCTOBER		
3	at Maryland	
10	Northwestern	
17	Michigan State	
31	at Minnesota	
NOVEMBER		
7	Rutgers	
14	at Indiana	
21	at Penn State	
28	Ohio State	

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug.	30	Appalachian State	W	52-14
Sept.	6	at Notre Dame	L	0-31
Sept.	13	Miami (Ohio)	W	34-10
Sept.	20	Utah	L	10-26
Sept.	27	Minnesota	L	14-30
Oct.	4	at Rutgers	L	24-26
Oct.	11	Penn State	W	18-13
Oct.	25	at Michigan State	L	11-35
Nov.	1	Indiana	W	34-10
Nov.	8	at Northwestern	W	10-9
Nov.	22	Maryland	L	16-23
Nov.	29	at Ohio State	L	28-42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brian Cole, WR, Saginaw, MI
2. Zach Gentry, QB, Albuquerque, NM
3. Tyree Kinnel, S, Huber Heights, OH
4. Grant Newsome, OT, Trenton, NJ
5. Alex Malzone, QB, Bloomfield Hills, MI
6. Tyrone Wheatley Jr., TE, Buffalo, NY
7. Shelton Johnson, DE, Delray Beach, FL
8. Karan Higdon, RB, Sarasota, FL
9. Reuben Jones, DE, Lakeland, FL
10. Grant Perry, WR, Bloomfield Hills, MI

STAT CORNER

1

Top-15 poll finishes for Michigan since 2006. The Wolverines had achieved 29 such finishes between 1969 and 2006.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	20.9 ppg	13	109
Rushing	162.8 ypg	8	62
Passing	170.2 ypg	11	110
Total	333.0 ypg	14	112
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.4 ppg	5	27
Rushing	117.7 ypg	3	15
Passing	193.7 ypg	5	19
Total	311.3 ypg	3	7
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-16	-1.33	14	121

OFFENSE Out with the old, and in with a newer version of the … well … old. Of all the changes new coach Jim Harbaugh has made, completely revamping the offense really wasn't one of them. The offense implemented by former head coach Brady Hoke was basically meant to be a copy of what Harbaugh used to run at Stanford. But Hoke's version never worked, and the Wolverines collapsed to No. 112 nationally in total offense a year ago.

The biggest focus for Harbaugh, offensive coordinator Tim Drevno and passing game coordinator Jedd Fisch has been pass efficiency. Michigan posted a dreadful team pass efficiency rating of 109.7 last season, 107th nationally. In the spring, Michigan worked with junior Shane Morris, true freshman Alex Malzone and redshirt freshman Wilton Speight — a trio with zero combined touchdown passes in college. Come fall, the Wolverines will welcome true freshman Zach Gentry to the fold and also get a boost from graduate transfer Jake Rudock. Rudock was the fourth-most efficient passer in the Big Ten last season at Iowa.

The quarterback battle is far from over, and one could say that with nearly every other position on offense as well. The departure of leading receiver Devin Funchess to the NFL puts more pressure on junior Amara Darboh to build on his 473-yard showing from a year ago. In total, Michigan returns just five touchdown catches from last season (two from Darboh, two from tight end Jake Butt, one from sophomore Freddy Canteen).

The offensive line returns five players with staring experience but lost senior center Jack Miller to retirement in the spring.

DEFENSE Michigan's defense finished the 2014 season as one of the more underrated units in America as the offense was woefully bad, constantly leaving its defense out to dry and ultimately resulting in a 5–7 record. In fact, if it weren't for the defense, the Wolverines may have finished with at least two fewer victories a year ago. The good news is that 24 of the 29 players who appeared on the final defensive depth chart are back. And that number doesn't include touted redshirt freshman safety Jabrill Peppers, who had as strong a spring camp as any player on the team.

The Wolverines finished the 2014 season No. 7 nationally in total defense. And while they will have to replace playmakers Jake Ryan, Frank Clark and Brennen Beyer, the amount of seasoned depth returning at all three levels is significant.

New defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin says the team will be multiple this season, running 4-3 and 3-4 sets. In the spring game, though, the team almost exclusively showed a 4-3. The heartbeat of the defense again resides in the middle, as senior Joe Bolden is back after a 102-tackle season, and senior Desmond Morgan returns after missing nearly all of last year with an arm injury.

SPECIALISTS Michigan lost former Big Ten Punter of the Year Will Hagerup and starting placekicker Matt Wile to graduation. True freshman Andrew David arrives as one of the nation's top-rated kickers, and graduate transfer Blake O'Neill is expected to handle the punting. The units surrounding the specialists might actually present a bigger concern, as Michigan's special teams suffered from a lack of discipline and explosion.

FINAL ANALYSIS If Harbaugh can keep Michigan's offense from stepping on land mines while showing improvement week to week, the defense is good enough to push the Wolverines to at least eight victories. But if Michigan doesn't find a quarterback who can protect the football, or get a serious push from its offensive line, the team may struggle to make a huge leap in Year 1 of the Harbaugh era.



JABRILL PEPPERS

"I think it's cool that Jim Harbaugh is in the league. I think it's good for the league and it's obviously good for Michigan."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	82	**Amara Darboh (Jr.)**	17	Freddy Canteen (So.)
WR	86	Jehu Chesson (Jr.)	85	Maurice Ways (Fr.)
LT	52	**Mason Cole (So.)**	72	Logan Tuley-Tillman (So.)
LG	71	**Ben Braden (Jr.)**	62	Blake Bars (Jr.)
C	61	**Graham Glasgow (Sr.)**	57	Patrick Kugler (So.)
RG	67	**Kyle Kalis (Jr.)**	55	David Dawson (So.)
RT	78	Erik Magnuson (Jr.)	76	Juwann Bushell-Beatty (Fr.)
TE	88	Jake Butt (Jr.)	84	A.J. Williams (Sr.)
QB		Jake Rudock (Sr.)	7	Shane Morris (Jr.)
FB	36	Joe Kerridge (Sr.)	39	Sione Houma (Sr.)
RB	32	Ty Isaac (So.)	27	Derrick Green (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	53	Mario Ojemudia (Sr.)	93	Lawrence Marshall (Fr.)
DT	69	Willie Henry (Jr.)	73	Maurice Hurst (So.)
DT	90	Bryan Mone (So.)	**96**	**Ryan Glasgow (Jr.)**
DE	**43**	**Chris Wormley (Jr.)**	33	Taco Charlton (Jr.)
OLB	**15**	**James Ross III (Sr.)**	52	Royce Jenkins-Stone (Sr.)
MLB	**35**	**Joe Bolden (Sr.)**	42	Ben Gedeon (Jr.)
OLB	48	Desmond Morgan (Sr.)	9	Mike McCray (So.)
CB	26	Jourdan Lewis (Jr.)	8	Channing Stribling (Jr.)
CB		Wayne Lyons (Sr.)	**2**	**Blake Countess (Sr.)**
SS	5	Jabrill Peppers (Fr.)	25	Dymonte Thomas (Jr.)
FS	**22**	**Jarrod Wilson (Sr.)**	44	Delano Hill (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Andrew David (Fr.)	KR	23 Dennis Norfleet (Sr.)
P		Blake O'Neill (Sr.)	PR	5 Jabrill Peppers (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Shane Morris, 40-14-128-3, 0 TD
Rushing: De'Veon Smith, 108 att., 519 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Amara Darboh, 36 rec., 473 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Joe Bolden, 102
Sacks: Taco Charlton, 3.5;Mario Ojemudia, 3.5
Interceptions: Jourdan Lewis, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Leon Halip/Getty Images

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

National Forecast: 7
Big Ten East Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Mark Dantonio
Record at School: 75-31 (8 years)
Career Record: 93-48 (11 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Jim Bollman, Dave Warner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Harlon Barnett, Mike Tressel
East Lansing, MI • Spartan Stadium (75,005)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
4	at Western Michigan
12	Oregon
19	Air Force
26	Central Michigan
OCTOBER	
3	Purdue
10	at Rutgers
17	at Michigan
24	Indiana
NOVEMBER	
7	at Nebraska
14	Maryland
21	at Ohio State
28	Penn State

2014 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Aug.	29	Jacksonville State	W	45-7
Sept.	6	at Oregon	L	27-46
Sept.	20	Eastern Michigan	W	73-14
Sept.	27	Wyoming	W	56-14
Oct.	4	Nebraska	W	27-22
Oct.	11	at Purdue	W	45-31
Oct.	18	at Indiana	W	56-17
Oct.	25	Michigan	W	35-11
Nov.	8	Ohio State	L	37-49
Nov.	15	at Maryland	W	37-15
Nov.	22	Rutgers	W	45-3
Nov.	29	at Penn State	W	34-10
Jan.	1	vs. Baylor #	W	42-41

#Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. LJ Scott, RB, Hubbard, OH
2. Kyonta Stallworth, OL, Detroit, MI
3. Raequan Williams, DT, Chicago, IL
4. David Dowell, ATH, North Ridgewell, OH
5. Josh Butler, DB, Mesquite, TX
6. Andrew Dowell, LB, North Ridgewell, OH
7. Tyriq Thompson, LB, Detroit, MI
8. Tyson Smith, CB, West Bloomfield, MI
9. Cassius Peat, DE, Chandler, AZ
10. Brian Lewerke, QB, Phoenix, AZ

STAT CORNER

Michigan State's winnning percentage over the last five seasons. That's the school's best rate since 1951-55.

0.791

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	43.0 ppg	2	7
Rushing	235.2 ypg	5	19
Passing	265.6 ypg	1	35
Total	500.8 ypg	2	11
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	21.5 ppg	3	22
Rushing	88.5 ypg	1	1
Passing	227.3 ypg	11	60
Total	315.8 ypg	4	8
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+19	+1.46	1	2

OFFENSE Michigan State has a third-year starter in Connor Cook who's poised to become the winningest quarterback in school history and set several all-time passing marks this season. Cook has the advantage of being protected by what's expected to be the best offensive line of the Mark Dantonio era. Senior All-American Jack Allen brings an ornery presence to center, while left tackle Jack Conklin is a celebrated talent some project to be a future first-round NFL Draft pick.

The extent of the Spartans' offensive success is a matter of who steps up to replace Big Ten Receiver of the Year Tony Lippett and 1,500-yard rusher Jeremy Langford. The Spartans have plenty of talent at the receiver and running back positions, but it is unproven. Players will need to grow up quickly with a Sept. 12 home game against 2014 national runner-up Oregon looming.

Cook has great accuracy and a strong arm, leading the Big Ten in passing yardage last season, but receivers such as Aaron Burbridge and R.J. Shelton need to be more consistent, and the Spartans have plenty of room for improvement in gaining yards after the catch. Tight end Josiah Price likely will remain one of Cook's favorite third-down and red-zone targets.

Tailback is less settled, with the status of Delton Williams up in the air after his indefinite suspension in the spring, and slashers Madre London and Gerald Holmes jockeying for pole position heading into fall camp. Incoming freshman LJ Scott will compete immediately for the starting tailback job regardless of how the depth chart reads entering August.

DEFENSE The Spartans have finished in the nation's top 10 in total defense the past four years, and a dominant front four could keep that streak alive. It starts with former Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year Shilique Calhoun at one end, and the quick and powerful Lawrence Thomas shifting from tackle to the other end. Seniors Damon Knox and Joel Heath are at tackle alongside towering Freshman All-American Malik McDowell.

The Spartans return better-than-adequate outside linebackers Ed Davis and Darien Harris, with junior Riley Bullough fast becoming a rising star in the middle.

The question mark on the team is in the secondary, where Big Ten Defensive Back of the Year Kurtis Drummond and first-round talent Trae Waynes must be replaced. Athletic sophomore Montae Nicholson seems up to the task of playing alongside veteran RJ Williamson at safety, but the corners are much less certain. Junior Darian Hicks started 10 games last season but must win back his starting job, and redshirt freshman Vayante Copeland and senior Arjen Colquhoun are in close competition. Junior Demetrious Cox has been a safety but is talented enough to play cornerback if needed. The position is shaky enough that true freshmen will be thrown into the mix in fall camp.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Michael Geiger is coming off an offseason procedure for a hip pointer. Redshirt freshman Jake Hartbarger has a big leg but is unproven at punter. Macgarrett Kings Jr. and Andre Sims Jr. will compete for punt return duties, while Shelton is a good bet to continue to return kicks after running one back 90 yards for a score against Penn State last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Michigan State has an accomplished quarterback, strong-to-dominant play on both the offensive and defensive lines, and 24 seniors. The Spartans must prove they have elite talent at the other skill positions to attain their goals of winning the Big Ten and making the College Football Playoff. There is great potential but still much to be determined in fall camp.



CONNOR COOK

Craig Mitchelldyer

"Their schtick is that they don't have as much talent as other teams, but they have a bunch of really good players."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	16	Aaron Burbridge (Sr.)	19	AJ Troup (Sr.)	
WR	88	Monty Madaris (Jr.)	5	DeAnthony Arnett (Sr.)	
LT	**74**	**Jack Conklin (Jr.)**	73	Dennis Finley (So.)	
LG	65	Brian Allen (So.)	75	Benny McGowan (Jr.)	
C	**66**	**Jack Allen (Sr.)**	58	Devyn Salmon (So.)	
RG	**76**	**Donavon Clark (Sr.)**	64	Brandon Clemons (Sr.)	
RT	**79**	**Kodi Kieler (Jr.)**	55	Miguel Machado (Jr.)	
TE	82	Josiah Price (Jr.)	11	Jamal Lyles (Jr.)	
QB	**18**	**Connor Cook (Sr.)**	6	Damion Terry (So.)	
FB	**37**	**Trevon Pendleton (Sr.)**	41	Gerald Owens (Fr.)	
RB	28	Madre London (Fr.)	24	Gerald Holmes (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**89**	**Shilique Calhoun (Sr.)**	98	Demetrius Cooper (So.)	
DT	**92**	**Joel Heath (Sr.)**	72	Craig Evans (Fr.)	
DT	4	Malik McDowell (So.)	93	Damon Knox (Sr.)	
DE	**8**	**Lawrence Thomas (Sr.)**	94	Montez Sweat (Fr.)	
STAR	45	**Darien Harris (Sr.)**	35	Jalyn Powell (So.)	
MLB	30	Riley Bullough (Jr.)	33	Jon Reschke (So.)	
SLB	**43**	**Ed Davis (Sr.)**	23	Chris Frey (So.)	
CB	36	Arjen Colquhoun (Sr.)	**2**	**Darian Hicks (Jr.)**	
CB	13	Vayante Copeland (Fr.)		Josh Butler (Fr.)	
SS	9	Montae Nicholson (So.)	7	Demetrious Cox (Jr.)	
FS	**26**	**RJ Williamson (Sr.)**	29	Mark Meyers (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Michael Geiger (Jr.)	KR	21	Andre Sims Jr. (Sr.)
P	25	Jake Hartbarger (Fr.)	PR	12	R.J. Shelton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Cook, 365-212-3,214-8, 24 TDs
Rushing: Delton Williams, 54 att., 316 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Macgarrett Kings, 29 rec., 404 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: RJ Williamson, 59
Sacks: Shillque Calhoun, 8.0
Interceptions: RJ Williamson, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

National Forecast: 1
Big Ten East Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Urban Meyer
Record at School: 38-3 (3 years)
Career Record: 142-26 (13 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Tim Beck, Ed Warinner
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Chris Ash, Luke Fickell
Columbus, OH • Ohio Stadium (104,944)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
7	at Virginia Tech
12	Hawaii
19	Northern Illinois
26	Western Michigan
OCTOBER	
3	at Indiana
10	Maryland
17	Penn State
24	at Rutgers
NOVEMBER	
7	Minnesota
14	at Illinois
21	Michigan State
28	at Michigan

2014 RESULTS (14-1, 8-0)

Aug.	30	vs. Navy %		W	34-17
Sept.	6	Virginia Tech		L	21-35
Sept.	13	Kent State		W	66-0
Sept.	27	Cincinnati		W	50-28
Oct.	4	at Maryland		W	52-24
Oct.	18	Rutgers		W	56-17
Oct.	25	at Penn State	(ot)	W	31-24
Nov.	1	Illinois		W	55-14
Nov.	8	at Michigan State		W	49-37
Nov.	15	at Minnesota		W	31-24
Nov.	22	Indiana		W	42-27
Nov.	29	Michigan		W	42-28
Dec.	6	vs. Wisconsin &		W	59-0
Jan.	1	vs. Alabama $		W	42-35
Jan.	12	vs. Oregon #		W	42-20

%Baltimore &Indianapolis $Sugar Bowl: CFP Semifinal
#CFP National Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justin Hilliard, LB, Cincinnati, OH
2. Jerome Baker, LB, Cleveland, OH
3. Torrance Gibson, QB, Plantation, FL
4. Mike Weber, RB, Detroit, MI
5. Jashon Cornell, DE, Saint Paul, MN
6. Eric Glover-Williams, CB, Canton, OH
7. Isaiah Prince, OT, Greenbelt, MD
8. Matthew Burrell, OL, Woodbridge, VA
9. Dre'Mont Jones, DE, Cleveland, OH
10. K.J. Hill, WR, North Little Rock, AK

STAT CORNER

.927

Ohio State's win percentage since Urban Meyer took over in 2012. Buckeyes are 38-3 — 0-2 to finish 2013 and 38-1 otherwise.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	44.8 ppg	1	5
Rushing	264.5 ypg	2	8
Passing	247.1 ypg	3	51
Total	511.6 ypg	1	9
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.0 ppg	4	26
Rushing	141.3 ypg	5	34
Passing	201.1 ypg	6	28
Total	342.4 ypg	5	19
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+7	0.47	3	32

OFFENSE Urban Meyer teams move the ball and score — and that has only trended upward in Columbus.

The Buckeyes should be explosive once again as they return three accomplished quarterbacks, star running back Ezekiel Elliott, four starters along the offensive line (including All-Big Ten candidates Taylor Decker and Pat Elflein), useful tight end Nick Vannett, and a bevy of speedsters who can catch the ball.

The best of that lot is wideout Michael Thomas, who hauled in a team-best 54 passes for 799 yards and nine scores last season. The coaches want to get even more use out of Jalin Marshall and will really be able to put pressure on foes if burner Dontre Wilson can bounce back from a fractured foot.

Elliott is lined up for a monster year. The junior could approach 2,000 yards rushing — and Heisman finalist status. OSU also has another backfield weapon in Curtis Samuel, while true freshman Mike Weber could prove he deserves to see the field as well.

Ohio State's trio of standout QBs — Braxton Miller, Cardale Jones and J.T. Barrett — is an embarrassment of riches but raises lots of questions as to who is most deserving of the starting job. Miller is the most accomplished, Barrett the best game manager and Jones, or "12 Gauge" as he's known, possesses the strongest arm. All of them can hurt defenses with their feet, making this unit even more lethal.

DEFENSE Ohio State wasn't impenetrable last season, but the Buckeyes were pretty darn good at slowing teams down. Opponents averaged just 5.0 yards per play, 3.9 per rush and converted just a third of a their third-down plays. Plus, the Buckeyes racked up 45 sacks and scored six defensive touchdowns.

Key starters return up front, in the linebacking corps and at safety with defensive end Joey Bosa, the reigning Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, the headliner. Bosa is a headache for offensive linemen and quarterbacks. Most teams try to stay away from him completely or double-team him with regularity. Tackle Adolphus Washington will counter some of that tactic. He's also hard to keep out of the backfield.

If Ohio State adequately replaces departed lineman Michael Bennett, the linebackers should prosper. Joshua Perry is coming off a 124-tackle season on the outside and will be the leader of the defense. Darron Lee is a big-play performer, and middle backer Raekwon McMillan is perhaps the team's biggest hitter.

Eli Apple is the Buckeyes' top corner with Doran Grant out the door. He's capable of big things. Safety is in experienced hands with Tyvis Powell and Vonn Bell.

SPECIALISTS All the key elements return to the specialty units, and the Buckeyes have plenty of speed and athleticism from which to choose as they formulate their new kick cover and return teams. Sean Nuernberger is coming off a solid year at placekicker, although he hasn't attempted many pressure field goals. Power-legged Cameron Johnston is one of the Big Ten's best punters at pinning opponents deep. Marshall is a weapon on punt returns but has a knack for making every one of them interesting.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season was supposed to be the transition year for the Buckeyes. Instead, they blitzed through the Big Ten again, reached another level during the postseason and won the inaugural College Football Playoff. Now with seven returning starters entrenched on both sides of the ball, talent in all areas and a title under their belts, the Buckeyes' challenge is to find a way to maintain an edge. Fortunately, they've got one of the game's top motivators under the headset.



JOEY BOSA

"They were one of the best looking teams I have ever seen in person. And they are well coached."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**3**	**Michael Thomas (Jr.)**	80	Noah Brown (So.)	
WR	84	Corey Smith (Sr.)	1	Johnnie Dixon (Fr.)	
HY	17	Jalin Marshall (So.)	2	Dontre Wilson (Jr.)	
LT	**68**	**Taylor Decker (Sr.)**	67	Grant Schmidt (Fr.)	
LG	**54**	**Billy Price (So.)**	75	Evan Lisle (So.)	
C	**50**	**Jacoby Boren (Sr.)**	64	Marcelys Jones (So.)	
RG	**65**	**Pat Elflein (Jr.)**	71	Kyle Trout (Fr.)	
RT	57	Chase Farris (Sr.)	74	Jamarco Jones (So.)	
TE	81	Nick Vannett (Sr.)	85	Marcus Baugh (So.)	
QB	12	Cardale Jones (Jr.)	**16**	**J.T. Barrett (So.)**	
RB	**15**	**Ezekiel Elliott (Jr.)**	4	Curtis Samuel (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**97**	**Joey Bosa (Jr.)**	49	Sam Hubbard (Fr.)
DT	90	Tommy Schutt (Sr.)	51	Joel Hale (Sr.)
DT	**92**	**Adolphus Washington (Sr.)**	52	Donovan Munger (So.)
DE	59	Tyquan Lewis (So.)	42	Darius Slade (Fr.)
WLB	**37**	**Joshua Perry (Sr.)**	35	Chris Worley (So.)
MLB	5	Raekwon McMillan (So.)	55	Cam Williams (Sr.)
SLB	**43**	**Darron Lee (So.)**	33	Dante Booker (So.)
CB	**13**	**Eli Apple (So.)**	7	Damon Webb (So.)
CB	19	Gareon Conley (So.)	2	Marshon Lattimore (Fr.)
SS	**23**	**Tyvis Powell (Jr.)**	1	Erick Smith (So.)
FS	**11**	**Vonn Bell (Jr.)**	16	Cam Burrows (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Sean Nuernberger (So.)	**KR**	2	Dontre Wilson (Jr.)
P	95	Cameron Johnston (Jr.)	**PR**	17	Jalin Marshall (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: J.T. Barrett, 314-203-2,834-10, 34 TDs
Rushing: Ezekiel Elliott, 273 att., 1,878 yds., 18 TDs
Receiving: Michael Thomas, 54 rec., 799 yds., 9 TD
Tackles: Joshua Perry, 124
Sacks: Joey Bosa, 13.5
Interceptions: Vonn Bell, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Ric Fogel

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

National Forecast: 32
Big Ten East Prediction: 3

Head Coach: James Franklin
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 31-21 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Donovan
Defensive Coordinator: Bob Shoop
University Park, PA
Beaver Stadium (106,572)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Temple
12 Buffalo
19 Rutgers
26 San Diego State

OCTOBER
3 Army
10 Indiana
17 at Ohio State
24 vs. Maryland #
31 Illinois

NOVEMBER
7 at Northwestern
21 Michigan
28 at Michigan State

#Baltimore, MD

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 2-6)

Sept.	6	Akron	W	21-3
Sept.	13	at Rutgers	W	13-10
Sept.	20	Massachusetts	W	48-7
Sept.	27	Northwestern	L	6-29
Oct.	11	at Michigan	L	13-18
Oct.	25	Ohio State (ot)	L	24-31
Nov.	1	Maryland	L	19-20
Nov.	8	at Indiana	W	13-7
Nov.	15	Temple	W	30-13
Nov.	22	at Illinois	L	14-16
Nov.	29	Michigan State	L	10-34
Dec.	27	vs. Boston College # (ot)	W	31-30

%Dublin, Ireland #Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Saquon Barkley, RB, Coplay, PA
2. Garrett Taylor, DB, Richmond, VA
3. John Reid, DB, Mount Laurel, NJ
4. Juwan Johnson, WR, Glassboro, NJ
5. Ryan Bates, OL, Warrington, PA
6. Sterling Jenkins, OL, Pittsburgh, PA
7. Kamonte Carter, DE, Silver Spring, MD
8. Paris Palmer, OT, Plymouth, NC*
9. Ryan Buchholz, DE, Malvern, PA
10. Andre Robinson, RB, Harrisburg, PA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

-2.6

PSU's field position margin in 2014, worst in the Big Ten. An inefficient offense and bad kicks and kick returns were harmful.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	20.6 ppg	14	110
Rushing	101.9 ypg	14	117
Passing	233.4 ypg	5	61
Total	335.3 ypg	13	111
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	18.6 ppg	1	7
Rushing	100.5 ypg	2	3
Passing	178.2 ypg	3	9
Total	278.7 ypg	1	2
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-5	-0.38	10	95

OFFENSE Christian Hackenberg is looking for a bounce-back season after seeing his touchdown-interception ratio go from 20-to-10 as a freshman to 12-to-15 as a sophomore. But most of the questions on offense concern his supporting cast.

Hackenberg was sacked a Big Ten-worst 44 times last year, so figuring out how to protect No. 14 is high on the to-do list. The Lions have six linemen with starting experience back, a big improvement over last year, when only one member of the first-team unit had ever started a college game prior to opening day.

The receiving corps mirrors the line, in that it's looking to reap the benefits of last year's trial by fire. Sophomores DaeSean Hamilton, Chris Godwin and Saeed Blacknall all saw extensive action in 2014, with Hamilton catching a league-best 82 passes.

In the backfield, the Lions welcome back last year's leading rusher, junior Akeel Lynch, along with a quintet of highly regarded freshmen.

With most of his supporting cast returning, hopes are ratcheting back up for Hackenberg's junior season. In the two games last season in which he was healthy and well-protected — the opener vs. UCF and the Pinstripe Bowl vs. Boston College — he combined to complete 68 percent of his passes for 825 yards, with five touchdowns and two interceptions. That'll do nicely.

DEFENSE Tackles Austin Johnson and Anthony Zettel are rock solid. The 6'4", 325-pound Johnson was the unsung hero of a Penn State defense that last season ranked third nationally against the run. Zettel, meanwhile, played a very prominent role, leading the team in tackles for a loss (17) and sacks (eight) and tying for the lead in interceptions (three).

The Lions will have two holes to fill at defensive end — Garrett Sickels and Carl Nassib are the leading candidates — but their biggest vacancy is at middle linebacker, where someone needs to replace last year's Big Ten tackling leader, Mike Hull. Junior Nyeem Wartman, a two-year starter at outside backer, slid inside in spring practice, with returning starter Brandon Bell and sophomore Jason Cabinda outside.

The secondary returns three starters and should be a strength. Marcus Allen started the last seven games of his true freshman season and "played as well as any safety in college football the second half of the year," defensive coordinator Bob Shoop says. At free safety, the Lions will rely on Jordan Lucas, a two-year starter at cornerback. Sophomore Grant Haley looks like the leading contender for Lucas' former position, while senior Trevor Williams returns at the opposite cornerback spot.

SPECIALISTS Franklin referred to walk-on Joey Julius as "Big Toe" this spring. A redshirt freshman, Julius has yet to attempt a field goal or PAT in a college game, but he's battling deposed punter Chris Gulla for the job. The Lions punted erratically last season, so there's a competition under way between Daniel Pasquariello and Robby Liebel.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Lions have addressed their glaring weakness, building depth and experience along a patchwork offensive line. They'll still be young up front, with only one senior on the projected two-deep (two if you count incoming graduate transfer Kevin Reihner), but the line probably won't be as big of a liability. On the opposite side of the ball, they return seven starters from what was, statistically, the Big Ten's best defense last season.

Of Penn State's six losses last fall, only two were by more than a touchdown. If the defense holds strong and Hackenberg gets a chance to show what he can do, it's not hard to imagine the Lions turning a few of those close losses into close wins in 2015.


CHRISTIAN HACKENBERG

"They're still a year away from solidifying that offensive line, but it's going to be better."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	5	**DaeSean Hamilton (So.)**	13	Saeed Blacknall (So.)	
WR	12	Chris Godwin (So.)	7	**Geno Lewis (Jr.)**	
LT	73	Paris Palmer (Jr.)	58	Chance Sorrell (Fr.)	
LG	70	**Brendan Mahon (So.)**	53	Derek Dowrey (Jr.)	
C	66	**Angelo Mangiro (Sr.)**		Kevin Reihner (Sr.)	
RG	72	**Brian Gaia (Jr.)**	77	Chasz Wright (Fr.)	
RT	59	**Andrew Nelson (So.)**	75	Brendan Brosnan (Fr.)	
TE	88	Mike Gesicki (So.)	81	Adam Breneman (So.)	
TE	87	**Kyle Carter (Sr.)**	11	Brent Wilkerson (Jr.)	
QB	14	**Christian Hackenberg (Jr.)**	9	Trace McSorley (Fr.)	
RB	22	Akeel Lynch (Jr.)	24	Nick Scott (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	95	Carl Nassib (Sr.)	52	Curtis Cothran (So.)
DT	99	**Austin Johnson (Jr.)**	91	Tarow Barney (Sr.)
DT	98	**Anthony Zettel (Jr.)**	41	Parker Cothren (So.)
DE	90	Garrett Sickels (So.)	19	Torrence Brown (Fr.)
OLB	40	Jason Cabinda (So.)	42	Troy Reeder (Fr.)
MLB	5	**Nyeem Wartman (Jr.)**	38	Ben Kline (Sr.)
OLB	11	**Brandon Bell (Jr.)**	7	Koa Farmer (Fr.)
CB	15	Grant Haley (So.)	1	Christian Campbell (So.)
CB	10	**Trevor Williams (Sr.)**	3	Da'Quan Davis (Sr.)
SS	2	**Marcus Allen (So.)**	28	Troy Apke (So.)
FS	9	**Jordan Lucas (Sr.)**	6	Malik Golden (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Joey Julius (Fr.)	KR	15	Grant Haley (So.)
P	92	Daniel Pasquariello (So.)	PR	3	DeAndre Thompkins (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Christian Hackenberg, 484-270-2,977-15, 12 TDs
Rushing: Akeel Lynch, 147 att., 678 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: DaeSean Hamilton, 82 rec., 899 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Nyeem Wartman, 75
Sacks: Anthony Zettel, 8.0
Interceptions: Anthony Zettel, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Fred Vuich

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

National Forecast: 65
Big Ten East Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Kyle Flood
Record at School: 23-16 (3 years)
Career Record: 23-16 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ralph Friedgen
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Rossi
New Brunswick, NJ
High Point Solutions Stadium (52,454)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Norfolk State
12 Washington State
19 at Penn State
26 Kansas

OCTOBER
10 Michigan State
17 at Indiana
24 Ohio State
31 at Wisconsin

NOVEMBER
7 at Michigan
14 Nebraska
21 at Army
28 Maryland

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 3-5)

Sept.	6	Howard	W	38-25
Sept.	13	Penn State	L	10-13
Sept.	20	at Navy	W	31-24
Sept.	27	Tulane	W	31-6
Oct.	4	Michigan	W	26-24
Oct.	18	at Ohio State	L	17-56
Oct.	25	at Nebraska	L	24-42
Nov.	1	Wisconsin	L	0-37
Nov.	15	Indiana	W	45-23
Nov.	22	at Michigan State	L	3-45
Nov.	29	at Maryland	W	41-38
Dec.	26	vs. North Carolina #	W	40-21

%Seattle #Quick Lane Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marques Ford, DE, Riverview, FL
2. Sidney Gopre, LB, Newark, NJ
3. Najee Clayton, DB, Paterson, NJ
4. Michael Dare, QB, Elmwood Park, NJ
5. Jack Shutack, OL, Western Springs, IL
6. Zach Venesky, OL, Peckville, PA
7. Kamaal Seymour, DL, Brooklyn, NY
8. Nakia Griffin, TE, Tenafly, NJ
9. Anthony Folkerts, TE, Ray City, GA
10. Charles Snorweah, RB, Levitttown, PA

STAT CORNER

-7.6

Change in Rutgers' field position margin from 2013 (+5.4) to 2014 (-2.2). Poor kick coverage and iffy defense flipped the field.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	26.7 ppg	8	80
Rushing	162.6 ypg	9	63
Passing	227.4 ypg	6	68
Total	390.0 ypg	7	73
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	30.2 ppg	10	87
Rushing	212.3 ypg	13	106
Passing	230.5 ypg	12	69
Total	442.8 ypg	13	98
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-2	-0.15	6	73

OFFENSE Rutgers has had a revolving door for offensive coordinators, but the Scarlet Knights' sixth play-caller in as many years isn't expected to change things much from last season. Ben McDaniels spent last year as an apprentice to Ralph Friedgen, the longtime Maryland head coach who decided to retire after his one season calling plays for the Scarlet Knights. Under the 67-year-old Friedgen's tutelage, Rutgers ranked seventh in the Big Ten in total offense, but McDaniels insists he won't tinker much with the pro-style system this fall.

There is plenty of uncertainty at the quarterback position, where a pair of redshirt sophomores will compete for the right to replace four-year starter Gary Nova. Chris Laviano held a slight edge over LSU transfer Hayden Rettig in spring practice, but Scarlet Knights coach Kyle Flood figures to use the first few weeks of training camp before anointing either player as the starter. Whichever quarterback wins the job, he will have plenty of offensive weapons at his disposal, including a wide receiver — Leonte Carroo — who stiff-armed the NFL Draft to return for his senior campaign and one of the deepest backfields in the Big Ten. Paul James, Justin Goodwin, Josh Hicks, Robert Martin and Desmon Peoples have all started games for Flood, who figures to give James every opportunity to regain the starting nod after a knee injury derailed a promising campaign a year ago.

DEFENSE A step up in conference class resulted in Rutgers' defense ranking near the bottom of every meaningful statistic in the Big Ten last season. In their first season under the direction of defensive coordinator Joe Rossi, the Scarlet Knights yielded a combined 180 points in losing to the league's top four teams. A defensive unit that graduated six starters faces the same quartet again this season.

Darius Hamilton, a two-year starter at defensive tackle and returning captain, is the heart and soul of a unit that will look to shore up a run defense that ranked 106th nationally last season.

"From a talent standpoint, this might be one of the best defenses I've been around," Hamilton says, pointing to an experienced secondary featuring cornerbacks Nadir Barnwell and Anthony Cioffi and a linebacker corps that includes returning starters Quentin Gause and Steve Longa. "This is a really talented group. I think the only thing that can stop us is ourselves."

SPECIALISTS The Scarlet Knights have traditionally been a force on special teams, blocking more kicks (41) than any team in the country since the 2009 season. Kemoko Turay led the country with three blocked kicks last season, including a potential go-ahead field goal against Michigan. While Kyle Federico made 16-of-21 field goal attempts, the placekicking operation was plagued by some errant snaps from long snapper Alan Lucy, who will need to show improvement in his second season handling the job. Joe Roth and Tim Gleeson battled for the starting punting job throughout last season, and the result saw Rutgers rank fourth-worst among Big Ten teams in net punting. Gleeson holds a slight edge in the competition heading into training camp.

FINAL ANALYSIS No one expected life in the Big Ten to be easy for Rutgers, and losses to Ohio State, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Michigan State by a combined 180–44 score showed that the Scarlet Knights have a long way to go before they can compete with the cream of the conference crop. Rutgers' quest to reach a bowl game for the 10th time in 11 years will depend on whether Flood can find enough offense to compensate for a young defensive corps that figures to struggle against elite Big Ten competition once again.



LEONTE CARROO

"Leonte Carroo is a really good player, one of the better receivers we saw last year. We were very aware of him."
— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	4	**Leonte Carroo (Sr.)**	1	Janarion Grant (Jr.)	
WR	88	Andre Patton (Jr.)	84	John Tsimis (Jr.)	
LT	74	**Keith Lumpkin (Sr.)**	66	Jacquis Webb (Fr.)	
LG	60	Dorian Miller (So.)	65	Tariq Cole (Fr.)	
C	69	Derrick Nelson (Jr.)	57	Bryan Stonkus (So.)	
RG	70	**Chris Muller (Jr.)**	55	Ryan Brodie (Jr.)	
RT	77	J.J. Denman (Jr.)	71	Marcus Applefield (Fr.)	
TE	42	Nick Arcidiacono (Jr.)	81	Matt Flanagan (So.)	
QB	5	Chris Laviano (So.)	11	Hayden Rettig (So.)	
FB	44	Sam Bergen (Sr.)	40	Kevin Marquez (Jr.)	
RB	34	Paul James (Sr.)	8	Josh Hicks (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	58	Kemoko Turay (So.)	22	Quanzell Lambert (Jr.)	
NT	51	Sebastian Joseph (So.)	99	Kevin Wilkins (Fr.)	
DT	91	**Darius Hamilton (Sr.)**	53	Julian Pinnix-Odrick (Jr.)	
DE	93	**Djwany Mera (Sr.)**	75	Jimmy Hogan (Fr.)	
WLB	3	**Steve Longa (Jr.)**	26	Deonte Roberts (Fr.)	
MLB		Kaiwan Lewis (Sr.)	47	Isaiah Johnson (Jr.)	
SLB	50	**Quentin Gause (Sr.)**	35	Eric Margolis (Fr.)	
CB	12	Nadir Barnwell (Jr.)	33	Darian Dailey (Fr.)	
CB	31	Anthony Cioffi (Jr.)	24	Dre Boggs (So.)	
SS	29	Davon Jacobs (Jr.)	2	Kiy Hester (Fr.)	
FS	27	**Delon Stephenson (Jr.)**	30	Andre Hunt (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Kyle Federico (Sr.)	KR	1	Janarion Grant (Jr.)
P	99	Tim Gleeson (Sr.)	PR	1	Janarion Grant (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chris Laviano, 28-11-107-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Desmon Peoples, 115 att., 447 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Leonte Carroo, 55 rec., 1,086 yds., 10 TDs
Tackles: Steve Longa, 102
Sacks: Kemoko Turay, 7.5
Interceptions: Anthony Cioffi, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Jay Biggerstaff

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

National Forecast: 64
Big Ten West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Tim Beckman
Record at School: 12-25 (3 years)
Career Record: 33-41 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Cubit
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Tim Banks, Mike Phair
Champaign, IL • Memorial Stadium (60,670)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Kent State
12 Western Illinois
19 at North Carolina
26 Middle Tennessee

OCTOBER
3 Nebraska
10 at Iowa
24 Wisconsin
31 at Penn State

NOVEMBER
7 at Purdue
14 Ohio State
21 at Minnesota
28 vs. Northwestern #

#Chicago, IL

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 3-5)

Aug.	30	Youngstown State	W	28-17
Sept.	6	Western Kentucky	W	42-34
Sept.	13	at Washington	L	19-44
Sept.	20	Texas State	W	42-35
Sept.	27	at Nebraska	L	14-45
Oct.	4	Purdue	L	27-38
Oct.	11	at Wisconsin	L	28-38
Oct.	25	Minnesota	W	28-24
Nov.	1	at Ohio State	L	14-55
Nov.	15	Iowa	L	14-30
Nov.	22	Penn State	W	16-14
Nov.	29	at Northwestern	W	47-33
Dec.	26	vs. Louisiana Tech #	L	18-35

#Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Gabe Megginson, OL, Jacksonville, IL
2. Ke'Shawn Vaughn, RB, Antioch, TN
3. Dre Brown, RB, DeKalb, IL
4. Sam Mays, WR, Missouri City, TX
5. Adam Solomon, OL, Indianapolis, IN
6. Sean Adesanya, DL, Rahway, NJ*
7. Jamal Milan, DT, Chicago, IL
8. Patrick Nelson, DB, Chicago, IL
9. Jimmy Fitzgerald, QB, Champaign, IL
10. Trenard Davis, CB, Boynton Beach, FL

*junior college transfer

Illinois' win total has either risen or fallen by at least two games in seven of the last eight seasons. The Illini don't stand still.

STAT CORNER
2

2014 RANKINGS

Defense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	25.9 ppg	9	84
Rushing	117.5 ypg	13	111
Passing	249.8 ypg	2	48
Total	367.2 ypg	8	94
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	34.0 ppg	14	107
Rushing	239.2 ypg	14	115
Passing	217.2 ypg	9	47
Total	456.4 ypg	14	109
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-3	-0.23	9	81

OFFENSE It was supposed to be a smooth transition from four-year starter Nathan Scheelhaase to Oklahoma State transfer Wes Lunt. It didn't turn out that way. When Lunt was healthy in 2014, he was effective. But injuries forced him to miss five games. Illinois offensive coordinator Bill Cubit is happy to have Lunt back for his junior season. Lunt is in his third year working with Cubit at Illinois. He completed 64 percent of his passes in 2014 with 14 touchdown passes and just three interceptions.

"Physically, he looks better," Cubit says. "He looks better in the pocket. He's going to have to be real good for us to be good."

Ask Cubit what is the strength of the offense, and he will quickly answer with a name: Josh Ferguson. The senior gained 735 yards and scored eight touchdowns on the ground in 2014. He had another 427 yards and two scores as a receiver.

Cubit's job became more difficult on April 8. That's when Mike Dudek, one of the top returning receivers in the Big Ten, suffered a torn ACL during a morning workout. He will be out until at least midseason. Geronimo Allison returns after finishing third on the team in 2014 with 41 catches. Cubit will need him to be a bigger part of the offense. He'll need the same from sophomore Malik Turner.

Up front, depth is a big concern. Guard Ted Karras, the top returnee in 2015, missed the spring while recovering from surgery. He will be ready for training camp. The starting tackles appear set with Christian DiLauro and Austin Schmidt.

DEFENSE It has been awhile since Illinois had heated battles for starting spots at end and tackle. Back to the Ron Zook era. "Now we do," coach Tim Beckman says. Senior end Jihad Ward is the best of an improving group. He is the leading returner in sacks (three) and tackles for a loss (8.5). Bad news for the Big Ten: Ward is better. Tackle Teko Powell is being counted on to anchor the middle. He missed the spring because of injury but is expected back.

The linebackers are growing up — in a good way. Having Mason Monheim back makes it easier for the coaches to sleep at night. T.J. Neal starts at middle linebacker. The Star position, a hybrid linebacker/safety, will be a training camp battle between James Crawford and Eric Finney.

V'Angelo Bentley returns at cornerback along with steady Eaton Spence. Taylor Barton is back at safety after finishing third on the team in tackles in 2014. Clayton Fejedelem made a late move in 2014 and will start at the other safety spot.

SPECIALISTS Coordinator Alex Golesh is looking for consistency on field goals. David Reisner and Taylor Zalewski split the duties in 2014 with mediocre results. They missed 8-of-17 field-goal tries. The team has huge shoes to fill at punter after the graduation of Justin DuVernois, who averaged 44 yards per attempt. Ryan Frain and Reisner will compete for the starting punting position.

FINAL ANALYSIS It is a simple question with a complicated answer: What does Beckman need to do to continue as Illinois football coach? The coach enters his fourth season with a 12–25 overall record and a 4–20 mark in the Big Ten. No doubt the team has improved during Beckman's tenure. But the bar was set low with a 2–10 mark his first year. The Illini won four in 2013 and six in 2014. The fans demand more.

The schedule doesn't help. The Illini travel to North Carolina and Iowa, while hosting Big Ten powerhouses Ohio State, Wisconsin and Nebraska. Another bowl bid is doable, and six wins should keep Beckman at the school for at least another season.


WES LUNT

"Their defense was terrible. Almost everybody scored a ton of points on them and gained over 400 yards."
— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	8	**Geronimo Allison (Sr.)**	16	Marchie Mudock (So.)	
WR	11	Malik Turner (So.)	13	Dionte Taylor (Jr.)	
WR	19	**Justin Hardee (Sr.)**	15	Tyrin Stone-Davis (Jr.)	
LT	57	Austin Schmidt (Jr.)	75	Patrick Flavin (Sr.)	
LG	53	Nick Allegretti (Fr.)	73	Chris O'Connor (Sr.)	
C	71	**Joe Spencer (Jr.)**	79	Zach Heath (Jr.)	
RG	69	**Ted Karras (Sr.)**	74	Connor Brennan (Jr.)	
RT	67	**Christian DiLauro (So.)**	70	Peter Cvijanovic (Fr.)	
TE	87	Tyler White (Jr.)	89	Andrew Davis (Jr.)	
QB	12	**Wes Lunt (Jr.)**	7	Chayce Crouch (Fr.)	
RB	6	**Josh Ferguson (Sr.)**	23	Henry Envenihi (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	17	**Jihad Ward (Sr.)**	58	Kenny Nelson (Sr.)
DT	96	**Rob Bain (Jr.)**	99	Jarrod Clements (Jr.)
DT	93	Teko Powell (Jr.)	42	Joe Fotu (Sr.)
DE	91	Dawuane Smoot (Jr.)	6	Carroll Phillips (Jr.)
LB	43	**Mason Monheim (Sr.)**	34	Mike Svetina (Jr.)
LB	52	**T.J. Neal (Jr.)**	10	B.J. Bello (Jr.)
LB	5	James Crawford (So.)	14	Eric Finney (Sr.)
CB	2	**V'Angelo Bentley (Sr.)**	24	Darius Mosely (Jr.)
CB	27	**Eaton Spence (Sr.)**	7	Caleb Day (Jr.)
S	20	Clayton Fejedelem (Sr.)	4	Darwyn Kelly (So.)
S	3	**Taylor Barton (Jr.)**	7	Caleb Day (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	David Reisner (Jr.)	KR	2	V'Angelo Bentley (Sr.)
P	13	Ryan Frain (Jr.)	PR	2	V'Angelo Bentley (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Wes Lunt, 241-153-1,763-3, 14 TDs
Rushing: Josh Ferguson, 146 att., 735 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Mike Dudek, 76 rec., 1,038 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Mason Monheim, 111
Sacks: Jihad Ward, 3.0
Interceptions: Mason Monheim 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Joe Robbins

IOWA HAWKEYES

National Forecast: 53
Big Ten West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz
Record at School: 115-85 (16 years)
Career Record: 127-106 (19 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Parker
Iowa City, IA • Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Illinois State	
12	at Iowa State	
19	Pittsburgh	
26	North Texas	
OCTOBER		
3	at Wisconsin	
10	Illinois	
17	at Northwestern	
31	Maryland	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Indiana	
14	Minnesota	
21	Purdue	
27	at Nebraska	

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Northern Iowa	W	31-23
Sept.	6	Ball State	W	17-13
Sept.	13	Iowa State	L	17-20
Sept.	20	at Pittsburgh	W	24-20
Sept.	27	at Purdue	W	24-10
Oct.	11	Indiana	W	45-29
Oct.	18	at Maryland	L	31-38
Nov.	1	Northwestern	W	48-7
Nov.	8	at Minnesota	L	14-51
Nov.	15	at Illinois	W	30-14
Nov.	22	Wisconsin	L	24-26
Nov.	28	Nebraska	(ot) L	34-37
Jan.	2	vs. Tennessee #	L	28-45

#TaxSlayer Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Daniels, C, Warren, OH
2. Landan Paulsen, OL, Moville, IA
3. Levi Paulsen, OL, Moville, IA
4. Jake Newborg, OL, Inwood, IA
5. Ryan Boyle, QB West Des Moines, IA
6. Brady Reiff, DE, Parkston, SD
7. Angelo Garbutt, LB, Carrollton, TX
8. Michael Slater Jr., ATH, St. Louis, MO
9. Anthony Nelson, DE, Urbandale, IA
10. Jack Hockaday, LB, Forsyth, IL

Iowa's average yards per play in 2014, the best since Greg Davis became offensive coordinator. It ranked just 72nd in FBS.

STAT CORNER

5.5

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	28.2 ppg	7	68
Rushing	163.1 ypg	7	61
Passing	237.0 ypg	4	55
Total	400.1 ypg	6	63
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	25.6 ppg	8	50
Rushing	168.3 ypg	6	64
Passing	175.9 ypg	2	7
Total	344.2 ypg	6	22
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-6	-0.46	12	10

OFFENSE The end of last season was also the end of Jake Rudock as an Iowa quarterback. Rudock, who started 25 of Iowa's last 26 games, transferred to Michigan after being passed on the depth chart by junior C.J. Beathard shortly after last season.

Rudock had a 14–11 record as Iowa's starting quarterback but was criticized for being too conservative as a passer, often settling for safer underneath routes instead of throwing downfield. Beathard, on the other hand, is blessed with a powerful right arm and likes to use it. The Tennessee native, who is the grandson of former NFL executive Bobby Beathard, played in nine games last season, starting one. He replaced an injured Rudock for the second half against Pittsburgh and for the entire game at Purdue. Iowa won both games, which fueled Beathard's popularity. Keeping Beathard healthy will be of utmost importance because no other quarterback on the roster has any game experience.

Senior Jordan Canzeri takes over for the departed Mark Weisman as the starting running back. Canzeri is faster and shiftier than the 240-pound Weisman, but Canzeri also is injury prone. Junior LeShun Daniels also will be in the mix at running back after missing most of last season with an injury. The 225-pound Daniels probably has the best combination of power and speed among all the Iowa running backs.

Much is expected from senior receiver Tevaun Smith and senior tight end Jake Duzey. Smith led Iowa with 596 receiving yards last season, while Duzey was third with 392 receiving yards.

DEFENSE As disappointing as the Iowa offense was last season, the defense wasn't much better. You could argue that it was worse in the TaxSlayer Bowl, as Tennessee shredded the Iowa defense for 461 total yards, including 283 rushing yards.

It won't matter a whole lot what the offense does if the defense continues to struggle. There are some quality pieces to build around, most notably All-Big Ten defensive end Drew Ott and All-Big Ten cornerback Desmond King.

However, the linebackers are a major concern, and there will be new starters at both tackle positions. All three of Iowa's starting linebackers are sophomores who were rushed into duty last season as freshmen. They flashed at times but were overmatched on many occasions.

The secondary, with three starters returning, is probably the strength on defense, although it was hard to tell during the loss to Tennessee because of all the missed tackles.

SPECIALISTS Senior kicker Marshall Koehn might have improved more than any player on the team last season. He went from being a liability in the early stages of the season to a strength at the end. He made 12 of his 16 field-goal attempts and was impressive during spring practice. In fact, Koehn has impressed the coaches enough to where they also might let him punt. Seniors Connor Kornbrath and Dillon Kidd, both of whom are on scholarship, shared the punting responsibilities last season, but neither has distinguished himself.

FINAL ANALYSIS It seems like with every strength that Iowa has, there is a weakness to offset it. Three starters return on the offensive line, but both tackles have to be replaced, including Outland Trophy winner Brandon Scherff. Both starters return at defensive end, but neither starter returns at defensive tackle.

Beathard is considered more athletic than Rudock, but he still is mostly unproven as a Big Ten starting quarterback.

Iowa has been average over the past three seasons with a 19–19 record. Expect more of the same from this team despite another favorable schedule.


DREW OTT

Joe Robbins

"I've got a lot of respect for them defensively because they don't try to do it with smoke and mirrors."
-An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	4	**Tevaun Smith (Sr.)**	17	Jacob Hillyer (Sr.)	
WR	89	Matt VandeBerg (Jr.)	20	Andrew Stone (Sr.)	
LT	52	Boone Myers (So.)	64	Cole Croston (Jr.)	
LG	79	**Sean Welsh (So.)**	59	Ross Reynolds (Fr.)	
C	63	**Austin Blythe (Sr.)**	58	Eric Simmons (Sr.)	
RG	65	**Jordan Walsh (Sr.)**	74	Mitch Keppy (Jr.)	
RT	75	Ike Boettger (So.)	69	Keegan Render (Fr.)	
TE	80	Henry Krieger Coble (Sr.)	87	Jake Duzey (Sr.)	
QB	16	C.J. Beathard (Jr.)	8	Tyler Wiegers (Fr.)	
FB	42	Macon Plewa (Sr.)	38	Adam Cox (Jr.)	
RB	33	Jordan Canzeri (Sr.)	29	LeShun Daniels (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	34	**Nate Meier (Sr.)**	96	Matt Nelson (Fr.)
DT	67	Jaleel Johnson (Jr.)	56	Faith Ekakitie (Jr.)
DT	99	Nathan Bazata (So.)	61	Kyle Terlouw (Jr.)
DE	95	**Drew Ott (Sr.)**	40	Parker Hesse (Fr.)
OLB	44	Ben Niemann (So.)	36	Cole Fisher (Sr.)
MLB	43	Josey Jewell (So.)	39	Travis Perry (Sr.)
OLB	41	**Bo Bower (So.)**	36	Cole Fisher (Sr.)
CB	13	**Greg Mabin (Jr.)**	28	Maurice Fleming (Jr.)
CB	14	**Desmond King (Jr.)**	7	Sean Draper (Sr.)
SS	19	Miles Taylor (So.)	37	Brandon Snyder (Fr.)
FS	27	**Jordan Lomax (Sr.)**	12	Anthony Gair (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Marshall Koehn (Sr.)	KR	10	Jonathan Parker (So.)
P	1	Marshall Koehn (Sr.)	PR	89	Matt VandeBerg (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Rudock, 345-213-2,436-5, 16 TDs
Rushing: Jordan Canzeri, 102 att., 494 yds., 0 TD
Receiving: Tevaun Smith, 43 rec., 596 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Lomax, 92
Sacks: Drew Ott, 8.0
Interceptions: Desmond King, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

National Forecast: 45
Big Ten West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: D Jerry Kill
Record at School: 25-26 (4 years)
Career Record: 152-99 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Limegrover
Defensive Coordinator: Tracy Claeys
Minneapolis, MN
TCF Bank Stadium (50,805)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 TCU
12 at Colorado State
19 Kent State
26 Ohio

OCTOBER
3 at Northwestern
10 at Purdue
17 Nebraska
31 Michigan

NOVEMBER
7 at Ohio State
14 at Iowa
21 Illinois
28 Wisconsin

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug.	28	Eastern Illinois	W	42-20
Sept.	6	Middle Tennessee	W	35-24
Sept.	13	at TCU	L	7-30
Sept.	20	San Jose State	W	24-7
Sept.	27	at Michigan	W	30-14
Oct.	11	Northwestern	W	24-17
Oct.	18	Purdue	W	39-38
Oct.	25	at Illinois	L	24-28
Nov.	8	Iowa	W	51-14
Nov.	15	Ohio State	L	24-31
Nov.	22	at Nebraska	W	28-24
Nov.	29	at Wisconsin	L	24-34
Jan.	1	vs. Missouri #	L	17-33

#Citrus Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dior Johnson, DB, Southfield, MI
2. Quinn Oseland, OL, Springfield, IL
3. Tyler Moore, OL, Houston, TX
4. Ace Rogers, DB, Iowa City, IA*
5. Demry Croft, QB, Rockford, IL
6. Ray Buford, DB, Southfield, MI
7. Bronson Dovich, OL, Chaska, MN
8. Hunter Register, WR, Lafayette, LA
9. Ted Stieber, OL, Akron, OH
10. Jaylen Waters, LB, Copperas Cove, TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

Gophers' win percentage against unranked teams in the last two years (16-4). Next stop: beating ranked teams. They're 0-6.

.800

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	28.4 ppg	6	66
Rushing	215.5 ypg	6	28
Passing	141.8 ypg	13	119
Total	357.3 ypg	9	103
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	24.2 ppg	6	33
Rushing	174.7 ypg	8	74
Passing	193.5 ypg	4	18
Total	368.2 ypg	7	39
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+10	+0.77	2	15

OFFENSE Minnesota has steadily improved in each of Jerry Kill's four seasons, but to take the next step, the passing game must improve. Junior quarterback Mitch Leidner returns to a passing attack that ranked 119th nationally last year.

The Gophers need to replace their two best playmakers on offense, as running back David Cobb and tight end Maxx Williams are both headed to the NFL. Minnesota installed a new, no-huddle offense this spring and worked extensively on its short passing game. The goal is to get the ball out of Leidner's hands more quickly.

"We can't lose our identity of who we are," Kill says. "We're going to run the football. But I think we win two or three more games last year if we throw it a little bit better. That's our fault (as coaches), not the kids' fault."

The battle for the 300-plus carries that went to Cobb last year starts with senior Rodrick Williams and redshirt freshman Rodney Smith. The receiving corps needs a boost, and the Gophers hope for big things from four redshirt freshmen — Jeff Jones, Isaiah Gentry, Desmond Gant and Melvin Holland Jr.

DEFENSE Defense has been a strength under Kill, and this could be defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys' stingiest bunch yet. The Gophers will start four seniors in the secondary, including All-Big Ten cornerbacks Briean Boddy-Calhoun and Eric Murray. Boddy-Calhoun had five interceptions last year, compared to one for Murray, but that's because teams often avoid Murray altogether.

After ranking ninth in the Big Ten in sacks last year (2.08 per game), the Gophers should have a better pass rush. Defensive end Hank Ekpe, who was limited with a severe sinus infection last year, was one of the most impressive players in spring camp. Another defensive end, Theiren Cockran, had 7.5 sacks in 2013. The Gophers must replace middle linebacker Damien Wilson, but Claeys felt like the linebackers were the most pleasant surprise this spring. It's unclear who will start in Wilson's place — Cody Poock or Everett Williams — but Claeys likes both options.

SPECIALISTS Kill's teams are usually strong on special teams, and this unit could be one of his best. Senior Peter Mortell was the Big Ten Punter of the Year last season, leading the conference with a 45.2-yard average. Sophomore kicker Ryan Santoso hit a 56-yard field goal in the spring game. Craig James was the Big Ten's fifth-leading punt returner last year, and Jalen Myrick was the conference's second-leading kickoff returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Kill was named Big Ten Coach of the Year last season, and he'll need to work more magic this year against a schedule that includes TCU and Ohio State. The coaches are confident they have enough running back talent to replace Cobb, but there's no substitute for a dynamic tight end like Williams. Leidner was instrumental in all five Big Ten wins last year. He needs to be more consistent. If the offense finds a way, this won't be a fun team to play.

"We've got a chance to be a really, really good football team," Kill says. "We're very athletic on both sides of the ball."

The Gophers were picked to finish fifth in the Big Ten West last year but wound up pushing Wisconsin to a final-week showdown for the division title. The Gophers landed their first New Year's Day bowl appearance since 1962, and more than 20,000 of their fans turned out to watch them play Missouri in the Citrus Bowl.

The fans want more. The Gophers haven't defeated Wisconsin since 2003 and haven't won a bowl game since 2004. If Kill can get those things done, his popularity will continue to soar.



BRIEAN BODDY-CALHOUN

"They're a very workmanlike, very efficient team. They're going to beat you with defense and ball control."

-An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	82	Drew Wolitarsky (Jr.)	21	Melvin Holland Jr. (Fr.)	
WR	84	Isaiah Gentry (Fr.)	13	Desmond Gant (Fr.)	
WR	1	KJ Maye (Sr.)	16	Jeff Jones (Fr.)	
LT	78	Ben Lauer (Jr.)		Quinn Oseland (Fr.)	
LG	**73**	**Joe Bjorklund (Sr.)**	63	Jon Christenson (Sr.)	
C	67	Brian Bobek (Sr.)	55	Connor Mayes (So.)	
RG	**65**	**Josh Campion (Sr.)**	71	Tyler Moore (Fr.)	
RT	**79**	**Jonah Pirsig (Jr.)**	77	Foster Bush (Sr.)	
TE	85	Lincoln Plsek (Sr.)	81	Duke Anyanwu (Jr.)	
QB	**7**	**Mitch Leidner (Jr.)**	5	Chris Streveler (So.)	
RB	35	Rodrick Williams (Sr.)	24	Rodney Smith (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**55**	**Theiren Cockran (Sr.)**	9	Alex Keith (Sr.)	
DT	**96**	**Steven Richardson (So.)**	92	Robert Ndondo-Lay (Sr.)	
DT	97	Scott Ekpe (Jr.)	99	Andrew Stelter (So.)	
DE	95	Hendrick Ekpe (Jr.)	87	Gaelin Elmore (So.)	
LB	**26**	**De'Vondre Campbell (Sr.)**	13	Jonathan Celestin (So.)	
LB	12	Cody Poock (So.)	57	Everett Williams (So.)	
LB	**50**	**Jack Lynn (Jr.)**	1	De'Niro Laster (So.)	
CB	**31**	**Eric Murray (Sr.)**	28	Jalen Myrick (Jr.)	
CB	**29**	**Briean Boddy-Calhoun (Sr.)**	22	Craig James (So.)	
S	**7**	**Damarius Travis (Sr.)**	8	Daletavious McGhee (So.)	
S	11	Antonio Johnson (Sr.)	25	Ace Rogers (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Ryan Santoso (So.)	KR	28	Jalen Myrick (Jr.)
P	37	Peter Mortell (Sr.)	PR	22	Craig James (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mitch Leidner, 237-122-1,798-8, 11 TDs
Rushing: Mitch Leidner, 126 att., 452 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: KJ Maye, 16 rec., 298 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: De'Vondre Campbell, 75
Sacks: Theiren Cockran, 4
Interceptions: Briean Boddy-Calhoun, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tom Lynn

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

National Forecast: 29
Big Ten West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Mike Riley
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 93-80 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Danny Langsdorf
Defensive Coordinator: Mark Banker
Lincoln, NE
Memorial Stadium (87,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 BYU
12 South Alabama
19 at Miami
26 Southern Miss

OCTOBER
3 at Illinois
10 Wisconsin
17 at Minnesota
24 Northwestern
31 at Purdue

NOVEMBER
7 Michigan State
14 at Rutgers
27 Iowa

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Florida Atlantic		W	55-7
Sept.	6	McNeese State		W	31-24
Sept.	13	at Fresno State		W	55-19
Sept.	20	Miami		W	41-31
Sept.	27	Illinois		W	45-14
Oct.	4	at Michigan State		L	22-27
Oct.	18	at Northwestern		W	38-17
Oct.	25	Rutgers		W	42-24
Nov.	1	Purdue		W	35-14
Nov.	15	at Wisconsin		L	24-59
Nov.	22	Minnesota		L	24-28
Nov.	28	at Iowa	(ot)	W	37-34
Dec.	27	vs. USC #		L	42-45

#Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Eric Lee Jr., DB, Milton, MA
2. Jalin Barnett, OL, Lawton, OK
3. Avery Anderson, DB, Surprise, AZ
4. Carlos Davis, DT, Blue Springs, MO
5. Christian Gaylord, OL, Baldwin City, KS
6. Lavan Alston, WR, Oxnard, CA
7. Standley Morgan, WR, New Orleans, LA
8. Khalil Davis, DT, Blue Springs, MO
9. Dedrick Young, LB, Peoria, AZ
10. DaiShon Neal, DE, Omaha, NE

STAT CORNER

+8.5

The Huskers' field position margin in 2014, fifth in the country. De'Mornay Pierson-El's punt returns were a major weapon.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	37.8 ppg	3	12
Rushing	240.2 ypg	4	17
Passing	212.1 ypg	9	80
Total	452.3 ypg	4	31
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	26.4 ppg	9	59
Rushing	177.8 ypg	9	78
Passing	205.8 ypg	7	32
Total	383.7 ypg	8	52
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-2	-0.15	6	73

OFFENSE Mike Riley has installed a pro-style offense with returning starter Tommy Armstrong Jr. at quarterback. Armstrong, the team's second-leading rusher a year ago behind the departed Ameer Abdullah, will become more of a pocket passer.

Among the first things offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Danny Langsdorf told Armstrong was that he wasn't a runner, though the threat of his running will continue to be a concern for opposing defenses, especially in third-down situations. Armstrong completed 53 percent of his passes for 2,695 yards and 22 touchdowns with 12 interceptions last season. Langsdorf is expecting increased efficiency.

Look for De'Mornay Pierson-El to be featured at wide receiver, along with veteran Jordan Westerkamp and Brandon Reilly, who came as a walk-on.

Terrell Newby and Imani Cross are the most experienced of the running backs, a position where there will be continued competition for playing time in fall camp as the Huskers look to replace departed All-American Ameer Abdullah

Regardless of the system, success will depend on the play up front. The line is built around left tackle Alex Lewis, a candidate for postseason honors and the only returning lineman who started every game last season. He sets the tone emotionally.

DEFENSE In the spring, players on defense talked about being freed up to make plays in coordinator Mark Banker's system. Banker said, jokingly, he didn't know whether to take that as a compliment or that it meant the system was "like being in elementary school."

Maliek Collins and Vincent Valentine are returning starters at tackle. Collins' quickness allowed him to lead the team in tackles for a loss in the previous system, so he could be even more effective. Valentine is a "load to block," says defensive line coach Hank Hughes. Kevin Williams is a third proven tackle.

Depth is a concern at defensive end, where Greg McMullen returns, and linebacker, where young players will be in the mix with David Santos, Josh Banderas and Michael Rose-Ivey, who returns after missing all of last season with a knee injury.

Safety Nate Gerry, cornerback Daniel Davie and nickel Byerson Cockrell are a place to start, but the secondary rotation will include young players, possibly a true freshman or two.

SPECIALISTS Pierson-El was among the best punt returners in the country as a true freshman, returning three for touchdowns. Special teams coach Bruce Read doesn't plan to use him on kickoff returns, however, because of his importance as a receiver. Sam Foltz and Drew Brown are the returning punter and placekicker, respectively, and the recruits include long-snapper Jordan Ober. Nebraska hasn't had an assistant assigned solely to special teams in the past. But such a position is "very, very key," Riley says.

FINAL ANALYSIS Nebraska won nine or more games in each of Bo Pelini's seven seasons as coach. His overall record was 67–27. So Riley can expect to be held to a high standard. But he is considerably more engaging than his predecessor, which probably means there will be some degree of patience during the transition.

The non-conference schedule could be challenging, with an opener at home against BYU and a trip to Miami (Fla.) two weeks later. But the conference schedule is such that nine wins, even in transition, should be possible. Nebraska hasn't won a conference championship since 1999. Winning one this year would be a stretch, though the Huskers should contend in the Big Ten West if the defense improves.


NATE GERRY

Jay Biggerstaff

"I think they'll still be able to run the ball, but I don't know if they have that one guy who really scares you."
-An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	15	De'Mornay Pierson-El (So.)	10	Jamal Turner (Sr.)	
WR	**1**	**Jordan Westerkamp (Jr.)**	**82**	**Alonzo Moore (Jr.)**	
WR	87	Brandon Reilly (Jr.)	18	Glenn Irons (Fr.)	
LT	**71**	**Alex Lewis (Sr.)**	59	Matt Finnin (Sr.)	
LG	70	Chongo Kondolo (Sr.)	72	Zach Hannon (So.)	
C	65	Ryne Reeves (Sr.)	55	Paul Thurston (Jr.)	
RG	66	Dylan Utter (Jr.)	67	Jerald Foster (Fr.)	
RT	**57**	**Zach Sterup (Sr.)**	78	Givens Price (Sr.)	
TE	11	Cethan Carter (Jr.)	84	Sam Cotton (Jr.)	
QB	4	Tommy Armstrong (Jr.)	6	AJ Bush (Fr.)	
RB	34	Terrell Newby (Jr.)	32	Imani Cross (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	90	Greg McMullen (Jr.)	19	Joe Keels (Sr.)	
DT	**7**	**Maliek Collins (Jr.)**	55	Kevin Maurice (Jr.)	
DT	**98**	**Vincent Valentine (Jr.)**	92	Kevin Williams (Sr.)	
DE	95	Jack Gangwish (Sr.)	91	Freedom Akinmoladun (Fr.)	
LB	**41**	**David Santos (Sr.)**	12	Luke Gifford (Fr.)	
LB	52	Josh Banderas (Jr.)	5	Dedrick Young (Fr.)	
LB	15	Michael Rose-Ivey (Jr.)	3	Marcus Newby (So.)	
CB	**23**	**Daniel Davie (Sr.)**	8	Chris Jones (So.)	
CB	10	Joshua Kalu (So.)	24	Aaron Williams (Fr.)	
S	**25**	**Nate Gerry (Jr.)**	27	Kieron Williams (So.)	
S	28	Byerson Cockrell (Sr.)	2	LeRoy Alexander (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	34	Drew Brown (So.)	KR	34	Terrell Newby (Jr.)
P	27	Sam Foltz (Jr.)	PR	15	De'Mornay Pierson-El (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tommy Armstrong Jr., 345-184-2,695-12, 22 TDs
Rushing: Tommy Armstrong Jr., 145 att., 705 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Westerkamp, 44 rec., 747 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Nate Gerry, 88
Sacks: Maliek Collins, 4.5
Interceptions: Nate Gerry, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

National Forecast: 58
Big Ten West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
Record at School: 60-53 (9 years)
Career Record: 60-53 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mick McCall
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Hankwitz
Evanston, IL • Ryan Field (47,130)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Stanford
12 Eastern Illinois
19 at Duke
26 Ball State

OCTOBER
3 Minnesota
10 at Michigan
17 Iowa
24 at Nebraska

NOVEMBER
7 Penn State
14 Purdue
21 at Wisconsin
28 vs. Illinois #

#Chicago, Ill

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug.	30	California		L	24-31
Sept.	6	Northern Illinois		L	15-23
Sept.	20	Western Illinois		W	24-7
Sept.	27	at Penn State		W	29-6
Oct.	4	Wisconsin		W	20-14
Oct.	11	at Minnesota		L	17-24
Oct.	18	Nebraska		L	17-38
Nov.	1	at Iowa		L	7-48
Nov.	8	Michigan		L	9-10
Nov.	15	at Notre Dame	(ot)	W	43-40
Nov.	22	at Purdue		W	38-14
Nov.	29	Illinois		L	33-47

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Thompson, DT, Cincinnati, OH
2. Joe Gaziano, DE, Scituate, MA
3. Flynn Nagel, WR, Lemont, IL
4. Jared Thomas, G, Indianapolis, IN
5. Trent Goens, DE, Chino Hills, CA
6. Nathan Fox, LB, Houston, TX
7. John Moten IV, RB, St. Louis, MO
8. Trae Williams, CB, The Plains, OH
9. Charlie Fessler, WR, Erie, PA
10. Adam Lemke-Bell, OT, Oak Park, IL

STAT CORNER

3.66

Northwestern defense's points allowed per trip inside the 40, 14th in the country. Unfortunately, the offense ranked 96th.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	23.0 ppg	12	98
Rushing	136.6 ypg	11	100
Passing	216.5 ypg	8	76
Total	353.1 ypg	10	104
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	25.2 ppg	7	47
Rushing	169.9 ypg	7	70
Passing	214.3 ypg	8	42
Total	384.3 ypg	9	53
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+4	0.33	4	40

OFFENSE A unit that has backslid significantly since 2012 must recapture efficiency and explosiveness. The regeneration attempt will occur with a new starting quarterback, as senior Zack Oliver, sophomore Matt Alviti and redshirt freshman Clayton Thorson competed closely throughout the spring.

The offense hinges on three factors where Northwestern struggled in 2014: passing accuracy (57.4 percent), third-down conversions (40 percent) and QB mobility (minus-94 net yards).

The Wildcats can build around running back Justin Jackson, who had six 100-yard rushing performances and ranked fourth among Power 5 freshmen in all-purpose average (98.9 ypg). The return of Christian Jones, Northwestern's leading receiver in 2012 and 2013, should boost an underperforming receiving corps. Northwestern could use Jones in the slot alongside super backs Dan Vitale and Garrett Dickerson — three big bodies who create matchup problems. Coach Pat Fitzgerald hopes Miles Shuler, Solomon Vault and others can stretch the field, as Northwestern recorded only 34 plays of 20 yards or longer last season, fewer than all but three FBS teams. "We have to get faster and more explosive and create more separation on the perimeter," Fitzgerald says.

The line must protect better after several players switched positions.

DEFENSE Recent recruiting upgrades could pay off as young defenders forced into major roles by injury last fall can build on their experience. Two of them, linebacker Anthony Walker and safety Godwin Igwebuike, combined for five interceptions and a forced fumble as redshirt freshmen. Both become full-time starters as Igwebuike joins three returning starters in a secondary that could be Northwestern's best under Fitzgerald.

The Wildcats are experienced at cornerback and defensive end, where three veterans — Dean Lowry, Deonte Gibson and Ifeadi Odenigbo — return alongside Xavier Washington, the only true freshman defender to play in 2014. Odenigbo, who has 8.5 career sacks and forced three fumbles last year, had his best spring and could be ready to break out.

Northwestern needs improved health and production at defensive tackle after allowing six opponents to eclipse 200 yards rushing last year. Outside linebacker also is thin as speedy senior Drew Smith becomes a full-time starter.

SPECIALISTS Northwestern must restore its effectiveness in the kicking game after a down year. Punter Hunter Niswander stood out in spring ball as he tries to boost a unit that finished 121st and 118th nationally the past two years in net average. Jack Mitchell had a solid first season at kicker, connecting on 14-of-18 field-goal attempts, most notably the game-winner at Notre Dame. Shuler should help a below-average return game along with Vault, who averaged 26.2 yards on kick returns in limited work as a freshman.

FINAL ANALYSIS A sense of normalcy is back at Northwestern, and so is a sense of urgency. The Wildcats understand what a third consecutive bowl-less campaign would do to a program still fighting the pre-1995 loser label. Fitzgerald has arguably his most talented defense, and if the special teams meet his expectations, the season once again could hinge on reigniting the offense. A drop-prone receiving corps must take a step forward, and an inconsistent line must protect the new quarterback, but there are weapons such as Jackson, Jones and Vitale.

Northwestern must navigate another tricky non-league schedule with Stanford and Duke but once again misses Ohio State and Michigan State in league play. "We've got to do the things winners do," Fitzgerald says. "We've got to get that edge back."


JUSTIN JACKSON

Tom Lynn

"I like Fitz. I can't speak for anybody else. He is the type of coach I like. Hard-nosed. Bright guy. Perfect for that job."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	5	Miles Shuler (Sr.)	82		Andrew Scanlan (Jr.)
WR	14	Christian Jones (Sr.)	8		Stephen Buckley (Jr.)
WR	19	**Cameron Dickerson (Sr.)**	11		Pierre Youngblood-Ary (Sr.)
LT	53	**Geoff Mogus (Sr.)**	71		Tommy Doles (Fr.)
LG	73	Adam DiPietro (Jr.)	68		Connor Mahoney (Jr.)
C	69	Brad North (So.)	63		Ian Park (Jr.)
RG	57	**Matt Frazier (Sr.)**	70		Shane Mertz (Sr.)
RT	76	**Eric Olson (Jr.)**	72		Blake Hance (Fr.)
TE	40	**Dan Vitale (Sr.)**	9		Garrett Dickerson (So.)
QB	7	Matt Alviti (So.)	18		Clayton Thorson (Fr.)
RB	21	Justin Jackson (So.)	13		Warren Long (Jr.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	94	**Dean Lowry (Sr.)**	98		Xavier Washington (So.)
DT	91	Sean McEvilly (Sr.)	90		**C.J. Robbins (Sr.)**
DT	93	**Greg Kuhar (Jr.)**	96		**Max Chapman (Sr.)**
DE	13	**Deonte Gibson (Sr.)**	7		Ifeadi Odenigbo (Jr.)
LB	55	**Drew Smith (Sr.)**	42		Joseph Jones (Jr.)
LB	18	**Anthony Walker (So.)**	51		Jaylen Prater (Jr.)
LB	51	Jaylen Prater (Jr.)	32		Nate Hall (Fr.)
CB	23	**Nick VanHoose (Sr.)**	3		Keith Watkins II (So.)
CB	27	**Matthew Harris (Jr.)**	17		Marcus McShepard (So.)
S	2	**Traveon Henry (Sr.)**	21		Kyle Queiro (So.)
S	16	Godwin Igwebuike (So.)	41		Jared McGee (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	8	Jack Mitchell (Jr.)	KR	4	Solomon Vault (So.)
P	32	Hunter Niswander (So.)	PR	5	Miles Shuler (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zack Oliver, 57-30-367-3, 2 TDs
Rushing: Justin Jackson, 245 att., 1,187 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Dan Vitale, 40 rec., 402 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Traveon Henry, 73
Sacks: Dean Lowry, 4.0
Interceptions: Godwin Igwebuike, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

National Forecast: 84
Big Ten West Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Darrell Hazell
Record at School: 4-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 20-30 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Shoop
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Hudson
West Lafayette, IN
Ross-Ade Stadium (57,236)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
6 at Marshall
12 Indiana State
19 Virginia Tech
26 Bowling Green

OCTOBER
3 at Michigan State
10 Minnesota
17 at Wisconsin
31 Nebraska

NOVEMBER
7 Illinois
14 at Northwestern
21 at Iowa
28 Indiana

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Aug.	30	Western Michigan	W	43-34
Sept.	6	Central Michigan	L	17-38
Sept.	13	vs. Notre Dame #	L	14-30
Sept.	20	Southern Illinois	W	35-13
Sept.	27	Iowa	L	10-24
Oct.	4	at Illinois	W	38-27
Oct.	11	Michigan State	L	31-45
Oct.	18	at Minnesota	L	38-39
Nov.	1	at Nebraska	L	14-35
Nov.	8	Wisconsin	L	16-34
Nov.	22	Northwestern	L	14-38
Nov.	29	at Indiana	L	16-23

#Indianapolis

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Elijah Sindelar, QB, Princeton, Ky.
2. Anthony Mahoungou, WR, La Courneuve, France *
3. Matt McCann, OL, Indianapolis, IN
4. Wyatt Cook, LB, Owings Mills, MD
5. Markus Bailey, LB, Hilliard, OH
6. Sawyer Dawson, LB, Plant City, FL
7. Richie Worship, RB, Cleveland, OH
8. Evyn Cooper, CB, Buford, GA
9. Markell Jones, RB, Columbus, IN
10. Mike Little, WR, Sherman Oaks, CA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

+1.1

Change in Purdue's per-play yardage margin from 2013 (-1.7) to 2014 (-0.6). The Boilers have further to go, but it's a start.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	23.8 ppg	11	95
Rushing	157.2 ypg	10	71
Passing	187.4 ypg	10	101
Total	344.6 ypg	11	108
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	31.7 ppg	12	97
Rushing	192.1 ypg	11	91
Passing	223.9 ypg	10	55
Total	416.0 ypg	10	80
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-5	-0.42	11	100

OFFENSE Junior quarterback Austin Appleby, who started the 2014 season's final seven games and led the Boilermakers to their only Big Ten victory in coach Darrell Hazell's two seasons at Purdue, returns but will have to improve after an ugly November in which he completed at least 50 percent of his passes in only two of four games. If he struggles early, fellow junior and former starter Danny Etling, redshirt freshman David Blough or true freshman Elijah Sindelar will be waiting in the wings.

The Boilermakers must replace their top two running backs — Akeem Hunt and Raheem Mostert — but have promising freshman Markell Jones, Indiana's 2014 Mr. Football who rushed for 60 touchdowns as a high school senior, and sophomore Keyante Green, who rushed for 199 yards as a backup in 2014.

Led by senior center Robert Kugler, the entire starting line returns, and senior wide receiver Danny Anthrop will give the Boilermakers one of the Big Ten's top targets if he is 100 percent after undergoing knee surgery in early December. Anthrop caught 38 passes for 616 yards in only nine games, suffering a knee injury at Nebraska in Week 10.

DEFENSE Eight of Purdue's 12 opponents in 2014 scored 30 points or more against a defense that was feeling its way while playing a bunch of freshmen and sophomores. Middle linebacker Ja'Whaun Bentley, now a sophomore, will anchor the 2015 defense after making 76 tackles as a freshman. Junior linebacker Jimmy Herman made 56 tackles a year ago, and sophomore Danny Ezechukwu also is a returning starter.

Junior Evan Panfil and sophomore Gelen Robinson will step into the starting end slots to replace Ryan Russell and Jalani Phillips. Junior Jake Replogle returns as a starting tackle, but this unit knows it must improve after finishing 10th in total defense in the Big Ten.

Frankie Williams will be the focal point of the secondary after making 74 tackles and intercepting three passes as a junior, earning All-Big Ten second-team accolades from the league's coaches. He can play corner or safety. Senior Anthony Brown will start at one corner after making 54 tackles last season, and hard-hitting junior Robert Gregory likely will start at one of the safety positions. If Hazell decides to play Williams at safety with Gregory, junior Leroy Clark probably will start at the corner opposite Brown.

SPECIALISTS With senior kicker Paul Griggs and senior punter Thomas Meadows both back as starters, special teams should be a Boilermaker strength. Griggs made 16-of-20 field-goal attempts as a junior along with 32-of-33 extra points. Meadows punted 58 times for a 39.8-yard average, including 15 that rolled to a stop inside the 20-yard line and seven of 50 yards or more. Williams returned 10 punts for a 17.1-yard average, and Anthrop is the likely candidate to replace Mostert as Purdue's kickoff return specialist.

FINAL ANALYSIS Having yet to win a Big Ten home game in Hazell's first two seasons and having failed to win any game after the first week of October, Purdue needs to take a big step in 2015 to placate a fan base that is grumbling after a November free fall that included losing to rival Indiana for a second consecutive season. The defense has a chance to be much better, and the offensive line is sound with six players back who started at least six games in 2014. But other than Anthrop, the Boilermakers are lacking in proven playmakers — and he is coming off a torn ACL.

Finding a way to get out of the Big Ten West basement will be quite a challenge.



FRANKIE WILLIAMS

"I don't think they have any choice but to ride it out and let Darrell (Hazell) try to fix the roster."

-An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	33	**Danny Anthrop (Sr.)**	21	Anthony Mahoungou (So.)	
WR	7	**DeAngelo Yancey (Jr.)**	18	Cameron Posey (So.)	
WR	9	Dan Monteroso (Jr.)	15	Trae Hart (So.)	
LT	75	**David Hedelin (Sr.)**	66	**Cameron Cermin (Jr.)**	
LG	72	**Jason King (Jr.)**	76	Jason Tretter (So.)	
C	57	**Robert Kugler (Sr.)**	66	Cameron Cermin (Jr.)	
RG	70	**Jordan Roos (Jr.)**	71	Corey Clements (Sr.)	
RT	73	**J.J. Prince (Jr.)**	66	Cameron Cermin (Jr.)	
QB	12	**Austin Appleby (Jr.)**	5	Danny Etling (Jr.)	
RB	23	Keyante Green (So.)	27	D.J. Knox (So.)	
RB	8	Markell Jones (Fr.)	28	David Yancey (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	13	Gelen Robinson (So.)	51	John Strauser (So.)
DT	54	**Jake Replogle (Jr.)**	92	Ryan Watson (Sr.)
NT	14	**Ra'Zahn Howard (Jr.)**	92	Ryan Watson (Sr.)
DE	95	Evan Panfil (Jr.)	11	Antoine Miles (So.)
LB	29	**Jimmy Herman (Jr.)**	42	Andy James Garcia (Jr.)
LB	4	**Ja'Whaun Bentley (So.)**	16	Garrett Hudson (So.)
LB	36	**Danny Ezechukwu (So.)**	42	Andy James Garcia (Jr.)
CB	9	**Anthony Brown (Sr.)**	2	Da'Wan Hunte (So.)
CB	3	Leroy Clark (Jr.)		Evyn Cooper (Fr.)
S	24	**Frankie Williams (Sr.)**	5	Austin Logan (Jr.)
S	7	Robert Gregory (Jr.)	27	Evan Feichter (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Paul Griggs (Sr.)	KR	33	Danny Anthrop (Sr.)
P	30	Thomas Meadows (Sr.)	PR	24	Frankie Williams (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Appleby, 272-144-1,449-11, 10 TDs
Rushing: Keyante Green, 27 att., 199 yds., 0 TD
Receiving: Danny Anthrop, 38 rec., 616 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Ja'Whaun Bentley, 76
Sacks: Ryan Watson, 4.0
Interceptions: Frankie Williams, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Joe Robbins

WISCONSIN BADGERS

National Forecast: 19
Big Ten West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Paul Chryst
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 19-19 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Rudolph
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Aranda
Madison, WI
Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 vs. Alabama #
12 Miami (Ohio)
19 Troy
26 Hawaii

OCTOBER
3 Iowa
10 at Nebraska
17 Purdue
24 at Illinois
31 Rutgers

NOVEMBER
7 at Maryland
21 Northwestern
28 at Minnesota

#Arlington, TX

2014 RESULTS (11-3, 7-1)

Aug.	30	vs. LSU %	L	24-28
Sept.	6	Western Illinois	W	37-3
Sept.	20	Bowling Green	W	68-17
Sept.	27	South Florida	W	27-10
Oct.	4	at Northwestern	L	14-20
Oct.	11	Illinois	W	38-28
Oct.	25	Maryland	W	52-7
Nov.	1	at Rutgers	W	37-0
Nov.	8	at Purdue	W	34-16
Nov.	15	Nebraska	W	59-24
Nov.	22	at Iowa	W	26-24
Nov.	29	Minnesota	W	34-24
Dec.	6	vs. Ohio State &	L	0-59
Jan.	1	vs. Auburn # (ot)	W	34-3

%Houston &Indianapolis #Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Stevenson, RB, Dallas, TX
2. Arrington Farrar, OLB, Atlanta, GA
3. Jon Dietzen, OT, Black Creek, WI
4. Kyle Penniston, TE, Orange, CA
5. Kevin Estes, OT, San Marcos, CA
6. David Moorman, OT, Northville, MI
7. Bradrick Shaw, RB, Birmingham, AL
8. David Edwards, TE, Downers Grove, IL
9. Austin Kafentzis, QB, Sandy, UT
10. Titus Booker, CB, Grayslake, IL

STAT CORNER

3.5

Yards per pass attempt (including sacks) by UW quarterbacks Joel Stave and Tanner McEvoy in the Badgers' three losses.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	34.6 ppg	4	27
Rushing	320.1 ypg	1	3
Passing	148.7 ypg	12	116
Total	468.9 ypg	3	21
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	20.8 ppg	2	17
Rushing	126.1 ypg	4	23
Passing	168.0 ypg	1	4
Total	294.1 ypg	2	4
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-9	-0.64	13	110

OFFENSE Paul Chryst oversaw some of the most explosive offenses in program history as a coordinator at Wisconsin, but the unit he inherits in his first season as head coach of the Badgers has some major question marks. Start with the offensive line, the engine that powers Wisconsin's power-running attack. Senior left tackle Tyler Marz and junior center Dan Voltz return, but the Badgers must replace three starters, and the next players in line have precious little experience. Some of the team's best recruits the past two seasons have been linemen, and the Badgers will need a few members of that crop to grow up in a hurry.

Wisconsin returns a fifth-year senior quarterback with 28 career starts and 21 victories, but Joel Stave has struggled with consistency and is coming off a season in which he completed 53.4 percent of his passes and finished with more interceptions (10) than touchdowns (nine). The good news for Stave is that he finished the 2014 season strong and he's comfortable with Chryst, who helped recruit Stave to Wisconsin as a preferred walk-on.

Wide receiver Alex Erickson was a pleasant surprise last season, finishing with a team-leading 55 receptions for 772 yards. But the senior needs some help from a supporting cast that includes junior Robert Wheelwright, whose only reception in 2014 was a 17-yard touchdown vs. Minnesota in the regular-season finale. Tight ends get a lot of love in Chryst's offense, so sophomore Troy Fumagalli could be in line for a breakout season.

Oh, and by the way, the Badgers have to replace tailback Melvin Gordon, who rushed for 2,587 yards, scored 32 touchdowns and finished as the Heisman Trophy runner-up. Junior Corey Clement will take over as the primary ball carrier.

DEFENSE One of Chryst's biggest recruits after being hired at Wisconsin was retaining defensive coordinator Dave Aranda, who oversaw a unit that finished fourth nationally in total defense and 17th in scoring defense.

Aranda has some holes to fill, but he also has some nice pieces to build around. The biggest is junior outside linebacker Vince Biegel, who led the Badgers with 16.5 tackles for a loss last season and added 7.5 sacks. Lining up at the other outside linebacker spot in Aranda's 3-4 defense will be senior Joe Schobert, who had 13.5 tackles for a loss in 2014.

Senior safety Michael Caputo headlines an experienced secondary that also returns both starting cornerbacks, senior Darius Hillary and junior Sojourn Shelton. The Badgers need more ballhawking from this unit in 2015 after finishing with only six interceptions last season, none of which came from cornerbacks.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Rafael Gaglianone had an excellent freshman season, finishing 19-of-22 on field goals. He made his final 14 tries of the season and was a respectable 5-of-7 from 40 yards and beyond. Senior punter Drew Meyer was terrific as a freshman — he averaged 41.5 yards per attempt and landed 36 of his 80 punts inside the 20-yard line — but is coming off back-to-back subpar seasons. The Badgers are looking for a new returner after Kenzel Doe exhausted his eligibility.

FINAL ANALYSIS Chryst has a good track record with quarterbacks, which bodes well for Stave. But the inexperience and lack of depth on the offensive line is a major concern, especially since it's considered the program's bedrock. The defense should be solid enough to keep Wisconsin in most games, though Aranda would like to see the Badgers force more turnovers. Wisconsin's schedule is manageable — at least once it gets past the opener against Alabama — and the Badgers should be able to make a run at a second consecutive Big Ten West Division title.


COREY CLEMENT

"I think the change will help Joel Stave a whole bunch. He's back with the guy (Paul Chryst) who recruited him."
–An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**86**	**Alex Erickson (Sr.)**	9	Jordan Fredrick (Sr.)	
WR	15	Robert Wheelwright (Jr.)	16	Reggie Love (Jr.)	
LT	**61**	**Tyler Marz (Sr.)**	67	Jon Dietzen (Fr.)	
LG	71	Ray Ball (Sr.)	69	Aidan McNamara (So.)	
C	**70**	**Dan Voltz (Jr.)**	58	George Panos (Fr.)	
RG	63	Michael Deiter (Fr.)	67	Walker Williams (Jr.)	
RT	74	Hayden Biegel (So.)	66	Beau Benzschawel (Fr.)	
TE	48	Troy Fumagalli (So.)	**46**	**Austin Traylor (Sr.)**	
QB	**2**	**Joel Stave (Sr.)**	13	Bart Houston (Jr.)	
FB	34	Derek Watt (Sr.)	20	Austin Ramesh (So.)	
RB	6	Corey Clement (Jr.)	28	Taiwan Deal (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**34**	**Chikwe Obasih (So.)**	93	Jake Keefer (Sr.)
NG	95	Arthur Goldberg (Jr.)	92	Jeremy Patterson (Fr.)
DE	6	Alec James (So.)	99	James Adeyanju (Sr.)
LB	**47**	**Vince Biegel (Jr.)**	41	Jesse Hayes (Sr.)
LB	32	Leon Jacobs (Jr.)	14	D'Cota Dixon (So.)
LB	53	T.J. Edwards (Fr.)	24	Keelon Brookins (So.)
LB	**58**	**Joe Schobert (Sr.)**	48	Jack Cichy (So.)
CB	**5**	**Darius Hillary (Sr.)**	4	Devin Gaulden (Sr.)
CB	**8**	**Sojourn Shelton (Jr.)**	25	Derrick Tindal (So.)
S	**7**	**Michael Caputo (Sr.)**	36	Joe Ferguson (So.)
S	11	Tanner McEvoy (Sr.)	**31**	**Luben Figaro (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Rafael Gaglianone (So.)	**KR**	17	George Rushing (So.)
P	90	Drew Meyer (Sr.)	**PR**	17	George Rushing (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joel Stave, 206-110-1,350-10, 9 TDs
Rushing: Corey Clement, 147 att., 949 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Alex Erickson, 55 rec., 772 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Michael Caputo, 106
Sacks: Vince Biegel, 7.5
Interceptions: Michael Caputo, 1; Lubern Figaro, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

CONFERENCE USA

C-USA PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	EAST	WEST
1	WKU **HILLTOPPERS** 9-4, 7-1 C-USA	LOUISIANA TECH **BULLDOGS** 8-5, 6-2 C-USA
2	MARSHALL **THUNDERING HERD** 9-3, 6-2 C-USA	RICE **OWLS** 7-5, 5-3 C-USA
3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE **BLUE RAIDERS** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA	UTEP **MINERS** 6-6, 4-4 C-USA
4	FLORIDA ATLANTIC **OWLS** 5-7, 5-3 C-USA	SOUTHERN MISS **GOLDEN EAGLES** 4-8, 3-5 C-USA
5	FIU **PANTHERS** 4-8, 3-5 C-USA	NORTH TEXAS **MEAN GREEN** 3-9, 2-6 C-USA
6	OLD DOMINION **MONARCHS** 5-7, 3-5 C-USA	UTSA **ROADRUNNERS** 2-10, 2-6 C-USA
7	CHARLOTTE **49ERS** 1-11, 0-8 C-USA	

C-USA Championship Game
WKU over Louisiana Tech

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Boca Raton Bowl: Marshall 52, No. Illinois 23

New Mexico Bowl: Utah State 21, UTEP 6

Heart of Dallas Bowl: Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18

Hawaii Bowl: Rice 30, Fresno State 6

Bahamas Bowl: WKU 49, Central Michigan 48

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Miami Beach Bowl: WKU vs. Cincinnati

New Mexico Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. San Diego State

Heart of Dallas Bowl: Rice vs. Texas Tech

St. Petersburg Bowl: Marshall vs. Houston

Bahamas Bowl: Middle Tennessee vs. Northern Illinois

New Orleans Bowl: UTEP vs. UL Lafayette

La Tech: La Tech Athletics; Dangerfield: WKU Athletics

2014 C-USA STANDINGS

EAST	C-USA	OVERALL
MARSHALL	7-1	13-1
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	5-3	6-6
UAB	4-4	6-6
WKU	4-4	8-5
OLD DOMINION	4-4	6-6
FIU	3-5	4-8
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	2-6	3-9

WEST	C-USA	OVERALL
LOUISIANA TECH	7-1	9-5
RICE	5-3	8-5
UTEP	5-3	7-6
UTSA	3-5	4-8
NORTH TEXAS	2-6	4-8
SOUTHERN MISS	1-7	3-9

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CHARLOTTE	12	9	5	12	13	13	13
FAU	3	12	10	7	7	11	4
FIU	8	10	11	10	1	3	3
LOUISIANA TECH	6	2	2	6	3	9	1
MARSHALL	5	1	3	2	2	1	2
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	4	5	7	4	8	2	6
NORTH TEXAS	10	8	8	11	5	7	7
OLD DOMINION	9	7	4	5	12	8	12
RICE	2	6	9	8	9	6	11
SOUTHERN MISS	7	11	6	9	11	12	8
UTEP	11	4	13	1	4	5	5
UTSA	13	13	12	13	10	10	10
WKU	1	3	1	3	6	4	9

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Marshall 2. Florida Atlantic 3. Louisiana Tech 4. Southern Miss 5. FIU
6. Old Dominion 7. North Texas 8. UTSA 9. Middle Tennessee
10. Rice 11. WKU 12. Charlotte 13. UTEP



PRESEASON ALL-C-USA TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Brandon Doughty	6-3	210	Sr.	WKU
RB	Kenneth Dixon	5-10	212	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
RB	Devon Johnson	6-1	246	Sr.	Marshall
WR	Jared Dangerfield	6-3	200	Sr.	WKU
WR	Trent Taylor	5-8	175	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
TE	Jonnu Smith	6-3	230	Jr.	FIU
C	Kaydon Kirby	6-3	329	Jr.	North Texas
G	Darius Johnson	6-3	305	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
G	Andrew Reue	6-5	295	Sr.	Rice
T	Forrest Lamp	6-4	296	Jr.	WKU
T	Clint Van Horn	6-5	295	Sr.	Marshall

First-Team Defense

DE	Vontarrius Dora	6-4	253	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DE	Michael Wakefield	6-3	254	Sr.	FIU
DT	Vernon Butler	6-3	309	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DT	Trevon Coley	6-2	300	Sr.	FAU
LB	T.T. Barber	6-1	229	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
LB	Nick Holt	6-1	230	Sr.	WKU
LB	D.J. Hunter	6-0	209	Sr.	Marshall
CB	Adairius Barnes	5-11	186	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
CB	Richard Leonard	5-9	189	Sr.	FIU
S	Kevin Byard	5-11	226	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
S	Xavier Woods	5-11	188	Jr.	Louisiana Tech

First-Team Specialists

K	Trevor Moore	5-11	175	So.	North Texas
P	Tyler Williams	6-0	200	Sr.	Marshall
KR	Autrey Golden	5-11	180	Sr.	UTEP
PR	Richard Leonard	5-9	189	Sr.	FIU

Second-Team Offense

QB	Driphus Jackson	6-0	210	Sr.	Rice
RB	Leon Allen	6-0	235	Sr.	WKU
RB	Aaron Jones	5-10	185	Jr.	UTEP
WR	Carlos Harris	5-8	183	Sr.	North Texas
WR	Zach Pascal	6-2	217	Jr.	Old Dominion
TE	Tyler Higbee	6-5	233	Sr.	WKU
C	Cameron Tom	6-4	287	Jr.	Southern Miss
G	Tyler Fisher	6-3	323	Jr.	Old Dominion
G	Will Hernandez	6-3	320	So.	UTEP
T	Reggie Bain	6-4	295	So.	FAU
T	Caleb Williams	6-3	295	Sr.	Rice

Second-Team Defense

DE	Roy Robertson-Harris	6-7	255	Sr.	UTEP
DE	Gavin Rocker	6-2	245	Sr.	WKU
DT	Brandin Bryant	6-3	290	Sr.	FAU
DT	Stuart Mouchantaf	6-4	290	Sr.	Rice
LB	Davison Colimon	6-1	217	Sr.	FIU
LB	Drew Douglas	6-1	230	Sr.	UTSA
LB	Alex Lyons	6-0	225	Jr.	Rice
CB	Cre'von LeBlanc	5-11	195	Sr.	FAU
CB	Bennett Okotcha	6-0	195	Sr.	UTSA
S	Kentrell Brice	5-11	198	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
S	Taj Letman	6-2	189	Sr.	Marshall

Second-Team Specialists

K	Jay Mattox	6-0	185	Jr.	UTEP
P	Dalton Schomp	6-1	220	Jr.	FAU
KR	Deandre Reaves	5-10	180	Sr.	Marshall
PR	Darvin Kidsy	6-0	182	Jr.	North Texas

CHARLOTTE 49ERS

National Forecast: 128
C-USA East Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Brad Lambert
Record at School: 10-12 (2 years)
Career Record: 10-12 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Mullen
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Wallerstedt
Charlotte, NC
Jerry Richardson Stadium (15,314)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 at Georgia State
12 Presbyterian
19 at Middle Tennessee
26 Florida Atlantic

OCTOBER
2 Temple
17 at Old Dominion
24 Southern Miss
31 Marshall

NOVEMBER
7 at FIU
14 UTSA
21 at Kentucky
28 at Rice

2014 RESULTS (5-6)

Aug.	31	Campbell	W	52-7
Sept.	7	Chowan	W	47-7
Sept.	14	North Carolina Central	L	13-40
Sept.	21	at James Madison	L	7-34
Sept.	28	at Presbyterian	W	45-21
Oct.	5	Gardner-Webb	W	53-51
Oct.	12	UNC Pembroke	L	22-45
Oct.	26	at Charleston So.	L	14-36
Nov.	2	at Coastal Carolina	L	25-50
Nov.	9	Wesley College	L	28-35
Nov.	23	at Morehead State	W	61-17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nafees Lyon, DB, Charlotte, NC
2. Michael Holmes, TE, Charlotte, NC
3. Nate Mullen, WR, Harrisburg, NC
4. Alex Barrow, WR, Clemmons, NC
5. Darren Drake, OL, McDonough, GA
6. Cameron Clark, OL, Greensboro, NC
7. Darius Irvin, DB, Winter Garden, FL
8. Jeff Gemmell, LB, Wake Forest, NC
9. Ben Jacques, TE, Mount Pleasant, SC
10. Trevor Stacy, OL, Huntington, WV

All-time wins by Charlotte over FBS teams. The 49ers reached 5–6 in 2014 beating the likes of Campbell and Chowan.

STAT CORNER

0

2014 STATISTICS

Offense	Per Game
Scoring	38.8 ppg
Rushing	221.9 ypg
Passing	265.0 ypg
Total	486.9 ypg
Defense	**Per Game**
Scoring	31.6 ppg
Rushing	193.3 ypg
Passing	284.2 ypg
Total	477.5 ypg
TO Margin	**Per Game**
-3	-0.27

OFFENSE The master plan for Charlotte's young football program was to have its first generation of players come of age at the same time. As the 49ers enter their third season of existence and first in Conference USA, that plan should start paying off as most key offensive players return to a quick-strike offense that had 22 touchdown drives of 90 seconds or less last season.

Junior running back Kalif Phillips is coming off a 1,436-yard season and should again have a prominent role. He'll have the luxury of an offensive line that brings back plenty of experience. Charlotte's top two receivers, Austin Duke and Trent Bostick, also return, headlining a talented group that also includes Georgia transfer and former four-star recruit Uriah LeMay.

While much of the offense is settled, things should be interesting at quarterback. Matt Johnson started eight games last season before tearing his MCL. After he went out, Lee McNeill stepped in and helped lead the 49ers to two victories. Both players will be juniors this season and should be pushed by redshirt freshman Brooks Barden.

"I just feel like we've got a lot of pieces," says Charlotte coach Brad Lambert, who served on Jim Grobe's staff at Wake Forest for 10 years.

DEFENSE After giving up 31.6 points per game last season, Lambert turned to former Texas Tech defensive coordinator — and his old college roommate — Matt Wallerstedt to fix a shaky defense. Wallerstedt, who says he'll keep the 49ers' 3-4 scheme, inherits a defense that has some talent but little depth.

Lambert says he's happy with the options along the defensive front. After missing last season, Devon Johnson will join last season's sack leader Larry Ogunjobi on the line. Syracuse transfer Josh Manley should also be a factor.

Elsewhere on defense, there are questions. Nick Cook and Caleb Clayton-Molby will anchor the linebacking corps after both missed chunks of last season due to injury. Branden Dozier, last season's leading tackler, and Devin Pearson will be proven options in the defensive backfield. But Lambert says that developing talent to put around these standouts will be the top priority heading into the preseason.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Blake Brewer and punter Arthur Hart are back and should keep their spots. Chris Montgomery, Corey Nesmith, Damarrell Alexander and Ardy Holmes all had roles in the return game last season and should be in the mix again.

FINAL ANALYSIS Charlotte football has gone from an idea to a fully operational FBS program at warp speed. After two seasons as an FCS competitor, the enormity of the challenge it faces this season could show. This will be the 49ers' first season with the full complement of 85 scholarship players. So while they'll have talent, much of it will be young and untested against the level of competition it's getting ready to face.

Also, up until now, Charlotte has eased into things with regard to scheduling. Previous slates were made up of FCS and Division II schools. This season, 11 of the team's 12 games will be against FBS competition. In addition to Conference USA foes, the 49ers will face Temple and Kentucky.

Coming off of back-to-back 5–6 seasons, Charlotte has shown that, while it has room to improve, it's not that far behind the learning curve. With the competition ratcheted up significantly this season, the 49ers hope to continue to show gradual improvement. Being competitive with Conference USA's middle tier would be a sign that, despite the accelerated pace of progress, the program is right on schedule.


AUSTIN DUKE

"They are going to have a tough time competing in the league this year. It's a pretty big jump."
— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	81	**Trent Bostick (Jr.)**	4	Corey Nesmith Jr. (Jr.)
WR	10	**Austin Duke (Jr.)**	18	Chris Montgomery (So.)
WR	29	Uriah LeMay (So.)	89	T.L. Ford (So.)
LT	73	**Jamal Covington (Jr.)**	78	Kyle Hoffman (Jr.)
LG	70	**Casey Perry (Jr.)**	66	Joe Wolljung (Jr.)
C	74	Thomas La Bianca (Jr.)	50	Jared Barr (Jr.)
RG	50	Jarred Barr (Jr.)	61	Zach Thomas (Sr.)
RT	68	**Daniel Book (Sr.)**	55	Mason Sledge (Jr.)
TE	33	Garrison Duncan (So.)	15	Justin Bolus (Jr.)
QB	8	**Matt Johnson (Jr.)**	5	Lee McNeill (Jr.)
RB	3	**Kalif Phillips (Jr.)**	32	Damarrell Alexander (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	96	Devon Johnson (Sr.)	99	**Brandon Banks (Jr.)**
NT	65	**Larry Ogunjobi (Jr.)**	97	Tanner Fleming (Jr.)
DE	94	Josh Manley (Jr.)	92	James Middleton (Jr.)
OLB	24	Daquan Lucas (Jr.)	46	DaQuavius Reid (Jr.)
ILB	6	Nick Cook (Jr.)	54	Jordan Starnes (So.)
ILB	42	Caleb Clayton-Molby (Sr.)	50	**Karrington King (So.)**
OLB	7	Jalen Holt (Jr.)	57	Justin Bridges-Thompson (Jr.)
CB	19	Devin Pearson (So.)	14	**Tank Norman (Jr.)**
CB	28	**Greg Cunningham (Jr.)**	39	Anthony Covington (So.)
SS	8	Ardy Holmes (Sr.)	21	Prince Mayela (Jr.)
FS	3	**Branden Dozier (Sr.)**	26	Cortezz Nixon (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	86	Blake Brewer (Jr.)	KR	32	Damarell Alexander (Sr.)
P	40	Arthur Hart (So.)	PR	4	Corey Nesmith Jr. (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Johnson, 225-117-2,010-8, 13 TDs
Rushing: Kalif Phillips, 229 att., 1,436 yds., 20 TDs
Receiving: Austin Duke, 79 rec., 1,373 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Branden Dozier, 86
Sacks: Larry Ogunjobi, 5.0
Interceptions: Greg Cunningham Jr., 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Charlotte Athletics

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

National Forecast: 107
C-USA East Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Charlie Partridge
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Wright
Defensive Coordinator: Roc Bellantoni
Boca Raton, FL • FAU Stadium (29,419)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Tulsa
11 Miami
19 Buffalo
26 at Charlotte

OCTOBER
10 Rice
17 Marshall
24 at UTEP
31 FIU

NOVEMBER
7 at Western Kentucky
14 Middle Tennessee
21 at Florida
28 at Old Dominion

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug.	30	at Nebraska	L	7-55
Sept.	6	at Alabama	L	0-41
Sept.	13	Tulsa	W	50-21
Sept.	20	at Wyoming	L	19-20
Sept.	27	UTSA	W	41-37
Oct.	2	at FIU	L	10-38
Oct.	18	Western Kentucky	W	45-38
Oct.	25	at Marshall	L	16-35
Nov.	1	UAB	L	28-31
Nov.	8	at North Texas	L	10-31
Nov.	22	at Middle Tennessee	L	34-35
Nov.	29	Old Dominion	L	28-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tarrick Thomas, OT, Tallahassee, FL
2. Jaye Miner, LB, Wesley Chapel, FL
3. Jalen Young, CB, Loxahatchee, FL
4. Daniel Parr, QB, Jupiter, FL
5. Rodrick Archer, S, Plantation, FL
6. Gerald Robinson Jr, CB, Hialeah, FL
7. Ralph Leonard, WR, Starkville, MS
8. Ocie Rose, S, Miami, FL
9. Shelton Lewis, CB, Orlando, FL
10. Kemar Downer, DB West Palm Beach, FL

STAT CORNER

+1.3

Change in yards per play allowed by FAU from 2013 (4.9) to 2014 (6.2). Roc Bellantoni's first year as coordinator had glitches.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	24.0 ppg	9	94
Rushing	163.6 ypg	6	60
Passing	199.5 ypg	8	90
Total	363.1 ypg	8	101
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	34.4 ppg	10	108
Rushing	222.1 ypg	12	112
Passing	238.7 ypg	9	84
Total	460.8 ypg	11	110
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-3	-0.25	9	85

OFFENSE FAU did something strange last season: Despite hiring Arkansas assistant Charlie Partridge as head coach, they retained offensive coordinator and one-time interim head coach Brian Wright. So it wasn't that surprising that the offense showed many of the same poor traits from Wright's first two seasons.

The Owls were inconsistent last year, never quite figuring out what kind of spread offense they wanted to be. That indecision likely stemmed from the fact that for the second straight fall camp, the Owls had a quarterback battle. Jaquez Johnson beat out Greg Hankerson for the starting gig last summer, and for better or worse, he should win the battle a third time in 2015.

The Owls will be forced to run more frequently as more than half of their receiving production has departed. That shouldn't be a problem with Johnson under center running the read-option game with backs Jay Warren and Greg "Buddy" Howell. Despite poor blocking at times last season, Warren and Howell were dependable (combined 1,084 yards on 241 carries) and should have plenty left in the tank for 2015.

Top receivers Lucky Whitehead and William Dukes have graduated, as has tight end Alex DeLeon, meaning that one-time walk-on Jenson Stoshak will be the Owls' top receiving target in 2015. Sophomore scatback Henry Bussey should take on Whitehead's starting slot receiver job after catching just four passes for 88 yards last season.

Partridge revamped the Owls' offensive line last season, setting it up for a big 2015. FAU's front had a better 2014 season than the statistics show, but with experience and a better understanding of scheme, it should be even better in 2015.

DEFENSE The Owls lost their three best defensive players to graduation in linebacker Andrae Kirk, cornerback D'Joun Smith and safety Damian Parms. Senior tackle Brandin Bryant missed a big part of the 2014 season and is set to return, which could have a trickle-down effect. A healthy Bryant next to the steady Trevon Coley will close up some of the holes in a line that was atrocious against the run in 2014. If that duo can return to 2013 form, it could free up end Trey Hendrickson to have a breakout year.

FAU's base defense is the nickel, putting more pressure on the two linebackers on the field. With Kirk gone, all eyes are on Robert Relf to improve his play and get into the backfield more often.

The Owls enter 2015 with plenty of faith in their corners — the physical Cre'von LeBlanc and crafty Raekwon Williams, who made a strong contribution as a true freshman. FAU has recruited defensive backs as well as anyone in Conference USA, but with the loss of both safeties, Parms and Christian Milstead, that recruiting will be put to the test. Top prospect Rodrick Archer and redshirt freshman Marquese Dudley-Gordon could see major playing time at the safety positions.

SPECIALISTS The loss of Whitehead as a returner will be huge. LeBlanc, Bussey and corner Reggie Brown will likely get a crack at replacing him. The Owls can expect another strong year from the kicking specialists, though. Placekicker Greg Joseph returns after making 14-of-20 field goals and all but one PAT. Punter Dalton Schomp brings back his impressive 45.4-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Losing the team's three best defensive players and the offense's top big-play threat will make improvement difficult for FAU in 2015. The Owls' running game is strong enough that they should be able to play with Conference USA opponents and expect to win at home. That would keep bowl hopes on the table, but Partridge will need to have his young squad ready to impress out of the gate.


JAQUEZ JOHNSON

"Charlie Partridge is doing a really good job there. They're in a great area and they have big-time facilities."
-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	88	**Jenson Stoshak (Sr.)**	82	Kamrin Solomon (So.)	
WR	81	**Kalib Woods (So.)**	4	Derek Moise (Sr.)	
WR	1	Henry Bussey (So.)	83	Tony Thomas (Jr.)	
LT	58	**Reggie Bain (So.)**	74	Byers Hickmon (Fr.)	
LG	73	**Mikingson Marsaille (Sr.)**	53	Jakobi Smith (So.)	
C	51	Joe Gold (So.)	77	Roman Fernandez (So.)	
RG	64	Antonyo Woods (So.)	66	**Dillon DeBoer (Jr.)**	
RT	76	Kelly Parfitt (Jr.)	57	Matt Weiner (Fr.)	
TE	80	Nate Terry (So.)	10	Dustin Bowens (So.)	
QB	12	**Jaquez Johnson (Sr.)**	3	Greg Hankerson (Jr.)	
RB	9	Buddy Howell (So.)	25	Jay Warren (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	59	**Robinson Eugene (Sr.)**	8	Nick Internicola (So.)	
DT	11	**Trevon Coley (Sr.)**	59	Robinson Eugene (Sr.)	
DT	2	Brandin Bryant (Sr.)	54	Ray Ellis (So.)	
DE	9	**Trey Hendrickson (Jr.)**	98	Haiden Nagel (So.)	
LB	34	Freedom Whitfield (Sr.)	47	Jerrad Ward (So.)	
LB	43	**Robert Relf (Jr.)**	50	Nate Ozdemir (So.)	
CB	23	Raekwon Williams (So.)	6	Reggie Brown (Jr.)	
CB	7	**Cre'von LeBlanc (Sr.)**	5	Ronnie Scott (So.)	
SS	29	Sharrod Neasman (Sr.)	4	Marquese Dudley-Gordon (Fr.)	
FS	24	Lester Thomas (Jr.)	21	Rodrick Archer (Fr.)	
NB	3	DJ Juste (Jr.)	36	Anthony Hamilton (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Greg Joseph (Jr.)	KR	1	Henry Bussey (So.)
P	67	Dalton Schomp (Jr.)	PR	1	Henry Bussey (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jaquez Johnson, 315-182-2,215-5, 17 TDs
Rushing: Jay Warren, 121 att., 571 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jenson Stoshak, 37 rec., 508 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Cre'von LeBlanc, 71
Sacks: Trey Hendrickson, 5.0
Interceptions: Cre'von LeBlanc, 2; Sharrod Neasman, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Ralph Notaro/FAU

FIU PANTHERS

National Forecast: 112
C-USA East Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Ron Turner
Record at School: 5-19 (2 years)
Career Record: 47-80 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Shankweiler
Defensive Coordinator: Matt House
Miami, FL • FIU Stadium (20,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
3	at UCF
12	at Indiana
19	NC Central
26	at Louisiana Tech
OCTOBER	
3	at Massachusetts
10	UTEP
17	at Middle Tennessee
24	Old Dominion
31	at Florida Atlantic
NOVEMBER	
7	Charlotte
14	at Marshall
21	Western Kentucky

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug.	30	Bethune-Cookman	L	12-14
Sept.	6	Wagner	W	34-3
Sept.	13	Pittsburgh	L	25-42
Sept.	20	Louisville	L	3-34
Sept.	27	at UAB	W	34-20
Oct.	2	Florida Atlantic	W	38-10
Oct.	11	at UTSA	L	13-16
Oct.	18	Marshall	L	13-45
Nov.	1	Rice	L	17-31
Nov.	8	at Old Dominion	L	35-38
Nov.	15	Middle Tennessee	W	38-28
Nov.	22	at North Texas	L	14-17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Fermin Silva, DL, Miami FL
2. Christian Alexander, QB, Lakeland, FL
3. Anthony Jones, WR, Miami, FL
4. Kenyatta Anderson, CB, St. Petersburg, FL
5. Irick McDonald, DE, Hialeah, FL
6. R.J. Harris, DL, Tallahassee, FL
7. Emmanuel Lubin, CB, Miami, FL
8. Terry Bennett, RB, Jacksonville, FL
9. Sage Lewis, LB, Opa-Locka, FL
10. Deion Eakins, OG, Jacksonville, FL

STAT CORNER

3.6

Points allowed per trip inside the 40 by the FIU defense, ninth in the country. Unfortunately, the FIU offense ranked 89th in the same category.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	23.0 ppg	10	98
Rushing	125.2 ypg	10	104
Passing	168.0 ypg	11	113
Total	293.2 ypg	12	120
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	3	40
Rushing	160.4 ypg	5	54
Passing	203.3 ypg	3	29
Total	363.8 ypg	3	35
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+11	+0.92	2	8

OFFENSE Early enrollee freshman Alex McGough won the starting quarterback job quickly in spring camp 2014 and never looked back. And while the offense struggled statistically, McGough never lost his handle on the job. He enters the 2015 season with high expectations stemming from a couple of strong games in conference (Old Dominion, Middle Tennessee).

Coach Ron Turner runs a single-back, run-first offense, and he has a strong competition for playing time shaping up at tailback this season. Alex Gardner had an impressive start to the 2014 season, but a late-season shoulder injury opened the door for Bowling Green transfer Anthon Samuel, who averaged 6.0 yards per carry in the final four games. They will be options one and two in 2015, with the order likely to flip frequently.

The Panthers return their best offensive player in tight end Jonnu Smith, who has caught 100 passes and 10 touchdowns over the last two seasons. Smith was McGough's safety valve in 2014 — he was targeted on 27 percent of the Panthers' passing plays and caught 72 percent of those balls. With significant attrition at wide receiver, Smith might see those numbers rise again in 2015.

Sophomore Dennis Turner, once a Miami commitment, is the top returning wide receiver after being targeted 21 times in 2014. A year of progression for McGough should mean more utilization of Turner's speed in 2015. But finding viable options beyond Tuner and Smith is priority No. 1 for the Panthers.

McGough will operate behind a line that's best in run situations, led by left guard Jordan Budwig and right tackle Aaron Nielsen. Finding a replacement for center Donald Senat, who started 26 games in his career, will be another key in fall camp.

DEFENSE Pat Narduzzi is one of the finest defensive minds in football, and when he took the Pittsburgh head coaching job, he tabbed FIU defensive coordinator Josh Conklin to run his defense. It was a deserved promotion for Conklin, as FIU had a surprisingly stout defense under him in 2014. The Panthers allowed only 148 big gains (of 10-plus yards) in 2014 — third-fewest in C-USA — thanks in part to standout years from defensive ends Denzell Perine (6.5 sacks) and Michael Wakefield (8.0), and cornerback Richard Leonard.

FIU returns plenty of defensive production in 2015. Only Giovani Francois has departed from an impressive defensive line, and the Panthers return all their top linebackers. Replacing safeties Demarkus Perkins and Justin Halley will be tough, as they were the linchpins of last season's defense. Safety play could dictate how strong FIU's high-potential defense can be in 2015.

SPECIALISTS Leonard is one of the nation's most dangerous return men, though he was able to break through for only one touchdown last season. The Panthers used two punters regularly, and the platoon should return in 2015. Jose Laphitzondo is the long-distance field-flipper, while Chris Ayers is used in close-range situations. Austin Taylor is both the kickoff specialist and placekicker, and he performed decently in both roles. He made 29-of-30 PATs and 4-of-6 field goals from 40-plus yards, while netting six touchbacks.

FINAL ANALYSIS A young offense should improve, thanks to an elite tight end in Smith and a backfield that has a year of experience under its belt. With a stout defense that should more than hold up its end of the bargain, the Panthers' quest to reach a bowl game in 2015 will ultimately rest on McGough's evolution. FIU will be tested early, but winnable early-season games against UCF and Indiana could be a springboard to a surprising year for the Panthers.


RICHARD LEONARD

"They were much better last year than two years ago, but their passing game was almost nonexistent."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	14	Dennis Turner (So.)	5	Clinton Taylor (Sr.)	
WR	89	Juwan Caesar (Jr.)	81	Thomas Owens (So.)	
LT	**78**	**Dieugot Joseph (Jr.)**	67	Josh Deuyour (Fr.)	
LG	**66**	**Jordan Budwig (Jr.)**	68	Chris Flaig (So.)	
C	64	Michael Montero (Jr.)	61	Danny Nunez (Jr.)	
RG	73	Trenton Saunders (Jr.)	72	James Cruise (Fr.)	
RT	**70**	**Aaron Nielsen (Sr.)**	75	Edens Sineace (Jr.)	
TE	**87**	**Jonnu Smith (Jr.)**	88	Jonathan Pavlov (So.)	
TE	80	Ya'Keem Griner (Sr.)	11	Akil Dan-Fodio (Sr.)	
QB	**12**	**Alex McGough (So.)**	10	Luke Medlock (Fr.)	
RB	42	Anthon Samuel (Sr.)	**1**	**Alex Gardner (So.)**	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	11	Denzell Perine (Sr.)	24	Josh Glanton (Jr.)	
DT	**74**	**Lars Koht (Sr.)**	44	Darrian Dyson (Sr.)	
DT	**93**	**Imarjaye Albury (Jr.)**	98	Leonard Washington (Jr.)	
DE	**55**	**Michael Wakefield (Sr.)**	99	Jermaine Sheriff (Fr.)	
LB	57	Jordan Guest (So.)	25	De'Shaun Hazziez (Jr.)	
LB	**52**	**Treyvon Williams (Jr.)**	48	Luis Rosado (Sr.)	
CB	**35**	**Davison Colimon (Sr.)**	**53**	**Anthony Wint (So.)**	
CB	**3**	**Richard Leonard (Sr.)**	38	Wilkenson Myrtil (Jr.)	
CB	**7**	**Jeremiah McKinnon (Sr.)**	27	Xavier Hines (So.)	
SS	18	Jordan Davis (Jr.)	28	Deonte Wilson (Jr.)	
FS	26	Shermarke Spence (So.)	29	Vontarius West (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Austin Taylor (Jr.)	KR	3	Richard Leonard (Sr.)
P	49	Jose Laphitzondo (Sr.)	PR	3	Richard Leonard (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Alex McGough, 274-138-1,680-10, 14 TDs
Rushing: Alex Gardner, 137 att., 582 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Jonnu Smith, 61 rec., 710 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Treyvon Williams, 50
Sacks: Michael Wakefield, 8.0
Interceptions: Richard Leonard, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

FIU Athletics

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

National Forecast: 70
C-USA East Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Doc Holliday
Record at School: 40-25 (5 years)
Career Record: 40-25 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Legg
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Heater
Huntington, WV
Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,227)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
6 Purdue
12 at Ohio
19 Norfolk State
26 at Kent State

OCTOBER
3 Old Dominion
9 Southern Miss
17 at Florida Atlantic
24 North Texas
31 at Charlotte

NOVEMBER
7 at Middle Tennessee
14 FIU
27 at Western Kentucky

2014 RESULTS (13-1, 7-1)

Aug.	30	at Miami (Ohio)	W	42-27
Sept.	6	Rhode Island	W	48-7
Sept.	13	Ohio	W	44-14
Sept.	20	at Akron	W	48-17
Oct.	4	at Old Dominion	W	56-14
Oct.	11	Middle Tennessee	W	49-24
Oct.	18	at FIU	W	45-13
Oct.	25	Florida Atlantic	W	35-16
Nov.	8	at Southern Miss	W	63-17
Nov.	15	Rice	W	41-14
Nov.	22	at UAB	W	23-18
Nov.	28	Western Kentucky (ot)	L	66-67
Dec.	6	Louisiana Tech %	W	26-23
Dec.	23	vs. Northern Illinois #	W	52-23

%C-USA Championship #Boca Raton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Von Davis, CB, Mount Dora, FL
2. Delvin Weems, RB, Tucker, GA
3. Channing Hames, DE, Baltimore, MD
4. Ty Tyler, DE, Punta Gorda, FL
5. Reggie Rogers, WR, Massillon, OH
6. Chase Litton, QB, Tampa, FL
7. Levi Brown, OG, Franklin, GA
8. Roosevelt Lawrence, CB, Tampa, FL
9. Damien Dozier, DE, Raleigh, NC
10. Larry Dunnon, WR, West Palm Beach, FL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

638

Points scored by the Herd in 2014, just 20 shy of the 658 they scored (with Randy Moss) in winning the I-AA title in 1996.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	45.6 ppg	1	3
Rushing	271.9 ypg	1	7
Passing	287.3 ypg	2	17
Total	559.2 ypg	1	2
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	21.0 ppg	1	18
Rushing	160.2 ypg	4	53
Passing	196.9 ypg	2	23
Total	357.1 ypg	1	31
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-2	-0.14	7	71

OFFENSE Michael Birdsong, a 6'5", 242-pound transfer from James Madison, steps in at quarterback to replace Rakeem Cato, who produced nearly 15,000 total yards and 146 touchdowns in his career. Birdsong possesses a live arm and the starting experience to help Marshall offensive coordinator Bill Legg keep his attack in the top 15 nationally for a fourth-straight year.

Birdsong will have plenty of help from a veteran group of skill players that includes senior running backs Devon Johnson and Steward Butler as well as a bevy of talented receivers. Johnson rushed for 1,767 yards — sixth best in FBS — and 17 touchdowns last year, while Butler added another 798 yards on the ground for an offense that averaged 6.8 yards per rush in 2014.

While there is a new quarterback, the targets at receiver are familiar. Davonte Allen, Angelo Jean-Louis and Deon-Tay McManus provide the Herd with guys who can stretch the field. Marshall has to replace Tommy Shuler, who left as Conference USA's all-time leader in receptions, but the Herd coaching staff is high on Hyleck Foster, who had a strong year as a freshman reserve.

Along the offensive front, Marshall has moved right guard Michael Selby to center to replace four-year starter Chris Jasperse, who logged more than 4,000 career snaps. Right tackle Clint Van Horn and left guard Sebastian Johansson are proven starters, but the unproven entity will be sophomore Sandley Jean-Felix, who will assume the left tackle spot.

DEFENSE Marshall defensive coordinator Chuck Heater transformed a team that was next to last in the nation in scoring defense in 2012 to a defense that was No. 18 in 2014, but his hands are full in 2015.

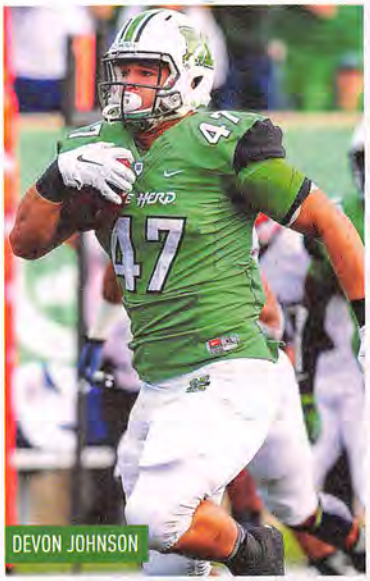
Top cornerback Darryl Roberts is gone, along with linebacker Neville Hewitt, who was Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year. While Hewitt's loss looks biggest on paper, Roberts had keyed the defensive turnaround with an ability to win one-on-one battles, which freed up Heater to send multiple blitzes at the opposition. To continue this scheme, cornerbacks Keith Baxter, Antavis Rowe and Chris Williams-Hall will need to emerge quickly as physical defenders.

Hewitt became a leader in the middle of the defense last season, but Marshall is high on Shawn Petty, a transfer from Maryland who excelled in the spring. Petty joins D.J. Hunter and Evan McKelvey in a linebacking corps that should be among the best in the conference. McKelvey returns after missing much of 2014 with a knee injury.

The biggest defensive concerns will be the lack of a proven pass rusher, so big things will be asked of UCF transfer Blake Keller. Gary Thompson has shown his playmaking ability in spurts, and Joe Massaquoi is a guy who had a solid preseason.

SPECIAL TEAMS Marshall returns one of the nation's top punters in Tyler Williams, a Ray Guy Award candidate who has averaged 43.7 yards per punt in his career. Nick Smith is the likely replacement for Justin Haig at kicker, but Amoreto Curraj, who will handle kickoff duties, is also a candidate. The Herd's kick return game looks strong with Deandre Reaves, who returned a kickoff for a score in the bowl win. Foster is the likely punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Johnson's return and a bevy of talented receivers help ease the pressure on Birdsong for an offense that has eclipsed 500 yards per game on average for each of the last three seasons. If the defense provides anything this season, the Herd — who face another soft schedule — should be in contention for a Conference USA Championship and potential New Year's Six bowl berth.


DEVON JOHNSON

"Doc (Holliday) is recruiting to the middle of nowhere and he goes into Miami and gets all those kids."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	3	**Davonte Allen (Sr.)**	9	Justin Hunt (Jr.)	
WR	16	Deon-Tay McManus (So.)	82	Emanuel Beal (Fr.)	
SLOT	2	Hyleck Foster (So.)	1	**Angelo Jean-Louis (So.)**	
LT	67	Sandley Jean-Felix (So.)	57	Eric Ansley (Jr.)	
LG	71	**Sebastian Johansson (Sr.)**	79	Fedrice Binot (Fr.)	
C	54	**Michael Selby (Jr.)**	65	Cody Collins (So.)	
RG	76	Nathaniel Devers (Fr.)	58	Jordan Dowrey (Fr.)	
RT	78	**Clint Van Horn (Sr.)**	68	Tom Collins (Sr.)	
TE	85	Ryan Yurachek (So.)	21	Emanuel Byrd (Jr.)	
QB	11	Michael Birdsong (Jr.)	10	Gunnar Holcombe (Jr.)	
RB	47	**Devon Johnson (Sr.)**	20	Steward Butler (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	96	Blake Keller (So.)	13	Armonze Daniel (Sr.)	
DT	93	Steve Dillon (Sr.)	92	Ricardo Williams (Sr.)	
NT	94	**Jarquez Samuel (Sr.)**	95	Tomell One (So.)	
DE	59	Gary Thompson (Jr.)	73	Joe Massaquoi (Jr.)	
SLB	22	**D.J. Hunter (Sr.)**	37	Chase Hancock (Fr.)	
MLB	56	Shawn Petty (Jr.)	45	Raheim Huskey (So.)	
WLB	31	Evan McKelvey (Sr.)	3	Stefan Houston (Jr.)	
CB	5	Keith Baxter (Sr.)	10	**Corey Tindal (Jr.)**	
CB	29	Antavis Rowe (So.)	12	Chris Williams-Hall (Fr.)	
SS	17	**Taj Letman (Sr.)**	26	Kendall Gant (So.)	
FS	1	**A.J. Leggett (Jr.)**	21	Tiquan Lang (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Nick Smith (So.)	KR	19	Deandre Reaves (Sr.)
P	38	Tyler Williams (Sr.)	PR	2	Hyleck Foster (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gunnar Holcombe, 21-12-119-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Devon Johnson, 206 att., 1,767 yds., 17 TDs
Receiving: Deon-Tay McManus, 26 rec., 422 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Taj Letman, 94
Sacks: D.J. Hunter, 5.5
Interceptions: A.J. Leggett, 4; Taj Letman, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Marshall Athletics

MTSU BLUE RAIDERS

National Forecast: 88
C-USA East Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill
Record at School: 57-55 (9 years)
Career Record: 57-55 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Buster Faulkner
Defensive Coordinator: Tyrone Nix
Murfreesboro, TN • Floyd Stadium (30,788)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Jackson State
12 at Alabama
19 Charlotte
26 at Illinois

OCTOBER
3 Vanderbilt
10 at Western Kentucky
17 FIU
24 at Louisiana Tech

NOVEMBER
7 Marshall
14 at Florida Atlantic
21 North Texas
28 at UTSA

2014 RESULTS (6-6, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Savannah State	W	61-7
Sept.	6	at Minnesota	L	24-35
Sept.	13	Western Kentucky (ot)	W	50-47
Sept.	20	at Memphis	L	17-36
Sept.	26	at Old Dominion	W	41-28
Oct.	4	Southern Miss	W	37-31
Oct.	11	at Marshall	L	24-49
Oct.	18	UAB	W	34-22
Nov.	1	BYU	L	7-27
Nov.	15	at FIU	L	28-38
Nov.	22	Florida Atlantic	W	35-34
Nov.	29	at UTEP	L	21-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ruben Garnett, RB, Hepzibah, GA
2. Terelle West, WR, Pinson, AL
3. Josh Fannin, G, Hoschton, GA
4. Vernon Walker, S, Orlando, FL
5. Chandler Brewer, G, Florence, AL
6. Dontavious Heard, CB, Atlanta, GA*
7. Isiah Upton, WR, Nashville, TN
8. Peter Bailey, DE, Kissimmee, FL*
9. Tyshun Render, TE, Atlanta, GA
10. Malik Manciel, DE, Detroit, MI

*junior college transfer

Change in MTSU's turnover margin from 2013 (+11) to 2014 (-4). The Blue Raiders' fumble recovery rate fell from 57percent to 42 percent.

STAT CORNER

-15

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	31.6 ppg	5	46
Rushing	213.8 ypg	2	30
Passing	217.5 ypg	7	74
Total	431.3 ypg	4	43
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	31.5 ppg	9	94
Rushing	182.6 ypg	9	80
Passing	269.7 ypg	11	111
Total	452.3 ypg	10	105
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-4	-0.33	11	92

OFFENSE Middle Tennessee's quarterback competition is a two-man race that might go well into the season. Returning starter Austin Grammer, a dual-threat performer, accounted for 2,999 yards of total offense and 23 TDs last season. But he had some turnover issues in key games, and the passing game rarely stretched the field. Redshirt freshman Brent Stockstill, son of head coach Rick Stockstill, may be a better passer, but Grammer is a better runner. It's likely that game action will determine the starter. "We've got to move the ball and pass it better," Rick Stockstill says. "In the last four or five games last year, our passing game struggled and people loaded the box on us. So whoever is out there has to pass the ball down the field. But I am in no hurry to make a decision."

The air attack faces an uphill battle. Ed Batties is a proven pass catcher, but he needs help from other wideouts. Passing game aside, the Blue Raiders return some key components of a strong ground attack. Jordan Parker, Shane Tucker and Jeremiah Bryson have combined for 3,638 rushing yards and 39 total TDs in their careers, and freshman power back J'Vonte Herrod may also enter the fray. Plus, three starting offensive linemen are back.

DEFENSE The key cogs return in two senior standouts. Safety Kevin Byard's 15 career interceptions stand only two shy of MTSU's all-time record. Byard (246 tackles) and linebacker T.T. Barber (234) are both within reach of the team's career mark in tackles (344).

They head a defense returning seven starters, but most of that personnel is better suited to stop the run than the pass. The top four defensive tackles return to clog gaps in the middle, but an every-down pass rusher is desperately needed. Juniors Steven Rhodes and Chris Hale showed some promise in that role in the spring, but junior college transfer Peter Bailey was signed specifically to bring pressure.

"I think defensive end is such a big area because we haven't had that guy who can get to the quarterback on any down in a few years," Stockstill says. "Adding that will be critical for what we need to do defensively."

Depth is also needed at cornerback. Jared Singletary is solid, but the other starter and backups are concerns, especially for a secondary burned by big plays too often in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker and punter are big concerns. Cody Clark is back, but he missed his last four field goals in 2014 and looked shaky in spring practice. He will compete for placekicking duties with freshman Matt Bonadies, who arrives as the frontrunner at punter. Record-breaking return man Reggie Whatley graduated, leaving a big-play vacancy. Batties, Bryson, Singletary and others will try to fill the void.

FINAL ANALYSIS MTSU has been bowl-eligible in five of the past six seasons, and the 2015 squad has enough talent and experience to add to that total. But the schedule doesn't do the Blue Raiders any favors. Two weeks after a trip to Alabama, MTSU begins a three-game stretch against Illinois, Vanderbilt and high-powered rival Western Kentucky. The senior-laden squad could be Stockstill's best in a few years, but the record might not show it.

"We've got some tough road games; it's not just our out-of-conference games," Stockstill says. "Western Kentucky could be favored to win the East, and we go there. Louisiana Tech could be favored to win the West, and we go there. But for us to contend (in Conference USA), we have got to stay healthy through those first five games so we can play well down the stretch in our conference."


AUSTIN GRAMMER

"Rick Stockstill does as good a job as anyone in the league of getting the most out of his talent."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	**Ed'Marques Batties (Sr.)**	18	Jevontey Smith (So.)	
WR	87	Richie James (Fr.)	13	Demetrius Frazier (Jr.)	
WR	81	Christian Collis (Sr.)	86	Rod Ducksworth (Jr.)	
LT	58	Carlos Johnson (Fr.)	74	Robert Behanan (Fr.)	
LG	75	**Darius Johnson (Sr.)**	64	David Adams (Jr.)	
C	63	**Josh Chester (Jr.)**	50	Jesse Moffitt (Fr.)	
RG	66	**Daniel Stephens (Jr.)**	54	Jaylen Hunter (Sr.)	
RT	56	Maurquice Shakir (Jr.)	65	Hunter Rogers (Jr.)	
TE	84	Terry Pettis (Jr.)	83	Sean Smith (Fr.)	
QB	2	**Austin Grammer (Jr.)**	12	Brent Stockstill (Fr.)	
RB	1	Shane Tucker (Jr.)	6	**Jordan Parker (Sr.)**	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	59	Chris Hale (Jr.)	45	Todney Evans (So.)
DT	92	**Patrick McNeil (Sr.)**	99	Jimal McBride (Jr.)
DT	51	**Shaquille Huff (Jr.)**	97	Raynard Felton (Jr.)
DE	49	Steven Rhodes (Jr.)	52	Ykeem Wells (Sr.)
LB	8	Trey Wafford (Sr.)	34	Anfornee Stewart (Jr.)
LB	24	Cavellis Luckett (Sr.)	30	Darius Harris (Fr.)
LB	38	**T.T. Barber (Sr.)**	31	D.J. Sanders (So.)
CB	4	**Jared Singletary (Sr.)**	47	Mike Minter (So.)
CB	21	Jamarcus Howard (Sr.)	23	Chris Brown (Jr.)
SS	20	**Kevin Byard (Sr.)**	3	Jordan Frost-Dixon (Sr.)
FS	42	**Xavier Walker (Sr.)**	22	Quay Watt (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	87	Cody Clark (Jr.)	KR	80	Ed'Marques Batties (Sr.)
P		Matt Bonadies (Fr.)	PR	80	Ed'Marques Batties (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Grammer, 338-221-2,557-12, 17 TDs
Rushing: Jordan Parker, 128 att., 546 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Ed'Marques Batties, 45 rec., 474 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: T.T. Barber, 72
Sacks: Jimal McBride, 2.5
Interceptions: Kevin Byard, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

OLD DOMINION MONARCHS

National Forecast: 113
C-USA East Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Bobby Wilder
Record at School: 52-20 (6 years)
Career Record: 52-20 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Scott
Defensive Coordinator: Rich Nagy
Norfolk, VA • Foreman Field (20,086)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	at Eastern Michigan
12	Norfolk State
19	NC State
26	Appalachian State
OCTOBER	
3	at Marshall
17	Charlotte
24	at FIU
31	Western Kentucky
NOVEMBER	
7	at UTSA
14	UTEP
21	at Southern Miss
28	Florida Atlantic

2014 RESULTS (6-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Hampton	W	41-28
Sept.	6	at NC State	L	34-46
Sept.	13	Eastern Michigan	W	17-3
Sept.	20	at Rice	W	45-42
Sept.	26	Middle Tennessee	L	28-41
Oct.	4	Marshall	L	14-56
Oct.	11	at UTEP	L	35-42
Oct.	25	at Western Kentucky	L	51-66
Nov.	1	at Vanderbilt	L	28-42
Nov.	8	FIU	W	38-35
Nov.	22	Louisiana Tech	W	30-27
Nov.	29	at Florida Atlantic	W	31-28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamez Brickhouse, DB, Virginia Beach, VA
2. Casey Bernard, LB, White Plains, MD
3. Miles Fox, DL, Lawrenceville, GA
4. Kesean Strong, ATH, Temple Hills, MD
5. Derek Wilder, TE/LB, Norfolk, VA
6. Kyle Goddard, WR, Lexington Park, MD
7. Hasaan Patterson, WR, Atlanta, GA
8. Jeremy Cox, RB, Hope Mills, NC
9. Nijee Cox, TE, Virginia Beach, VA
10. Jelani Carter, DB, Roanoke, VA

Average yards per rushing attempt by the ODU offense in 2014, second best in C-USA. The Monarchs didn't run often, but they were efficient.

STAT CORNER

4.91

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA
Scoring	32.7 ppg	5
Rushing	149.4 ypg	9
Passing	292.5 ypg	2
Total	441.9 ypg	3
Offense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**
Scoring	38.0 ppg	12
Rushing	222.5 ypg	13
Passing	229.7 ypg	6
Total	452.2 ypg	10
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**
-1	-0.08	7

OFFENSE For four seasons, quarterback Taylor Heinicke was the face of Old Dominion football. Heinicke won the Walter Payton Award — the FCS version of the Heisman Trophy — and threw for nearly 15,000 yards, giving the Monarchs the luxury of predictably solid quarterback play as they navigated the transition to the FBS level. With Heinicke gone, Old Dominion's offense faces the kind of questions it hasn't dealt with in a several years.

Redshirt freshman Shuler Bentley will be the player most likely to fill Heinicke's shoes. The 6'1" Shuler threw a South Carolina state-record 71 touchdown passes as a senior in high school and spent last season as the backup Heinicke never needed. Junior college transfer Joey Verhaegh will also have a shot at the starting gig. Whoever ends up with the job will have tools with which to work.

Sophomore running back Ray Lawry will again have a big role after rushing for 947 yards and being named Conference USA's top freshman. He leads a stable of solid backs that also includes promising sophomore Vincent Lowe and speedy freshman Jeremy Cox. After the loss of standout receiver Antonio Vaughan to graduation, Zach Pascal, David Washington and Melvin Vaughn become the prime targets in the passing game.

The Monarchs lost an all-conference center in Josh Mann but return 10 linemen who have significant playing experience, leading coach Bobby Wilder to be optimistic about the offense in the post-Heinicke era.

DEFENSE The Monarchs' defense took its lumps last season, giving up 38 points per game, including 56 to Marshall and 66 to Western Kentucky. But that wasn't a surprise as Old Dominion's defense relied heavily on young players. However, the result is that, with much of the unit back, Wilder expects to see improvement.

"This is going to be a young, developing, growing football team that's only going to get better," Wilder says.

Senior Poncho Barnwell, who led the team in sacks last season, will be the most experienced member of the defensive line.

TJ Ricks and Martez Simpson, two of the team's top tacklers last season, will team up with junior college transfers Richard Thomas and Shadow Williams to give the Monarchs a solid group of linebackers. Senior safety Fellonte Misher and junior cornerback Devon Brown, a UAB transfer, will be worth watching in the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Junior Ricky Segers was an effective kicker before tearing his ACL seven games into last season. In his place, Satchel Ziffer, now a junior, handled the job, kicking two game-winning field goals. Wilder expects them to compete for the job in the preseason. Ziffer will also be in a battle with Joe Pulisic and Jarrett Cervi for punting duties. Pascal, Nick England and Isaiah Harper will all be in the mix to become the Monarchs' primary return man.

FINAL ANALYSIS Old Dominion's first season as a full-fledged FBS school was a pleasant surprise. The Monarchs weren't eligible to go to a bowl given their status as a first-year member of Conference USA, but their 6–6 overall record — including a 4–4 league mark in C-USA's tougher East division — would have been good enough to get them there.

"It was a really good first step for our program," Wilder says.

This season, with the loss of Heinicke, repeating that success could prove tricky. To his credit, Wilder is realistic. He pegs a reasonable goal for this team at contending for the division and earning a bowl trip. For a school that only restarted its football program seven seasons ago, pulling off such feats would be cause to celebrate.


RAY LAWRY

"[Coach] Bobby [Wilder] is one of those guys whose offense is going to score points no matter what."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**6**	**Zach Pascal (Jr.)**	**48**	T.J. Boothe (So.)	
WR	**10**	**David Washington (Jr.)**	83	Quintin Reynolds (Fr.)	
WR	2	Marques Little (So.)	7	Nick England (Jr.)	
WR	1	Melvin Vaughn (Jr.)	8	Blair Roberts (Sr.)	
LT	**71**	**Connor Mewbourne (Sr.)**	73	Chad Hendricks (Fr.)	
LG	**70**	**Tyler Fisher (Jr.)**	**76**	**Tyler Compton (Jr.)**	
C	61	Eli Kessner (So.)	63	Nick Clarke (Fr.)	
RG	65	Tyler Burns (Sr.)	67	Davis Farmer (So.)	
RT	**78**	**Darius Garcia (So.)**	53	Cullen Casey (So.)	
QB	19	Shuler Bentley (Fr.)	14	Joey Verhaegh (So.)	
RB	33	Ray Lawry (So.)	**4**	**Vincent Lowe (So.)**	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**95**	**Poncho Barnwell (Sr.)**	99	Daniel Appouh (Fr.)	
DT	57	Rashaad Coward (Jr.)	54	Pat Toal (Fr.)	
DT	58	Bunmi Rotimi (So.)	59	Galen Evans (Jr.)	
DE	96	Terrell Reid (Jr.)	98	Oshane Ximines (Fr.)	
OLB	45	Shadow Williams (Jr.)	38	Richard Thomas (Jr.)	
MLB	**47**	**TJ Ricks (Jr.)**	43	Kohl Adams-Hurd (Sr.)	
OLB	**36**	**Martez Simpson (Sr.)**	35	Anthony Wilson (Jr.)	
CB	14	Aquante Thornton (Sr.)	27	Aaron Young (Jr.)	
CB	19	Devon Brown (Jr.)	16	Lawrence Holley (Fr.)	
SS	**24**	**Fellonte Misher (Sr.)**	3	C.J. Bradshaw (Jr.)	
FS	13	Justice Davila (So.)	34	Andre Bernhard (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Ricky Segers (Jr.)	KR	15	Isaiah Harper (Fr.)
P	39	Jarrett Cervi (So.)	PR	6	Zach Pascal (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Ray Lawry, 134 att., 947 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Zach Pascal, 59 rec., 743 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: TJ Ricks, 80
Sacks: Poncho Barnwell, 3.5
Interceptions: Christian Byrum, 2; Fellonte Misher, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Old Dominions Athletics

WKU HILLTOPPERS

National Forecast: 69
C-USA East Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Jeff Brohm
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 8-5 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Tyson Helton
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Holt
Bowling Green, KY
L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Vanderbilt
10 Louisiana Tech
19 at Indiana
26 Miami (Ohio)

OCTOBER
3 at Rice
10 Middle Tennessee
15 at North Texas
24 at LSU
31 at Old Dominion

NOVEMBER
7 Florida Atlantic
21 at FIU
27 Marshall

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 4-4)

Aug.	29	Bowling Green	W	59-31
Sept.	6	at Illinois	L	34-42
Sept.	13	at Middle Tennessee (ot)	L	47-50
Sept.	27	at Navy	W	36-27
Oct.	4	UAB	L	39-42
Oct.	18	at Florida Atlantic	L	38-45
Oct.	25	Old Dominion	W	66-51
Nov.	1	at Louisiana Tech	L	10-59
Nov.	8	UTEP	W	35-27
Nov.	15	Army	W	52-24
Nov.	22	UTSA	W	45-7
Nov.	28	at Marshall (ot)	W	67-66
Dec.	24	vs. Central Michigan #	W	49-48

#Bahamas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Quin Jernighan, WR, La Vergne, TN
2. DeVon Quincy, LB, Lexington, KY
3. Aldwin Jackson, CB, Louisville, KY
4. Parker Howell, OL, Nashville, TN
5. Cullen Reynolds, OL, Madisonville, KY
6. Heath Wiggins, DL, Mayfield, KY
7. Sidney Hammond, DE, Kennesaw, GA*
8. Nick Coffey, TE, Danville, KY
9. Jason Johnson, DB, Pahokee, FL
10. Devin Nixon, ATH, Melbourne, FL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

7.05

Yards per play by the WKU offense in 2014. The Hilltoppers were one of five schools to average more than 7.0 per play.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	44.4 ppg	2	6
Rushing	160.3 ypg	7	67
Passing	374.3 ypg	1	2
Total	534.6 ypg	2	4
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	39.9 ppg	12	121
Rushing	220.8 ypg	11	111
Passing	289.2 ypg	12	121
Total	509.9 ypg	12	120
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+5	+0.38	5	37

OFFENSE Conference USA opponents, especially the defensive coordinators, must have gasped when the NCAA granted WKU quarterback Brandon Doughty a sixth season with a medical hardship waiver. Combined with running back Leon Allen, no QB-RB duo in FBS history has matched their staggering numbers of last season. Doughty led the nation with 4,830 passing yards, and Allen ran for 1,542, giving them a combined 6,372 yards, surpassing the previous record of 5,840 yards set by Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III (4,293) and running back Terrance Ganaway (1,547) in 2011.

The Hilltoppers set or tied 50 offensive team and individual records. Only five quarterbacks since 1956 have thrown more than Doughty's 49 touchdown passes that also led the nation.

So much for the Hilltoppers' offense taking a step back with the departure after one year of coach Bobby Petrino to Louisville. Rookie coach Jeff Brohm put the offense into an even higher gear, and more of the same can be expected with the return of three starters on the line — left tackle Forrest Lamp and guards Brandon Ray and Darrell Williams.

Also back is Doughty's favorite target, senior receiver Jared Dangerfield, who had a school-record 69 catches for 825 yards and 11 touchdowns. Allen also is a receiving threat; his 476 yards pushed him over 2,000 yards from scrimmage.

DEFENSE The Hilltoppers have a lot of catching up to do on the opposite side of the ball. The return of seven starters, plus the addition of UAB transfer Jontavious Morris, should improve a unit that nationally ranked 120th in total defense and 121st in scoring defense.

The top four tacklers return, including senior middle linebacker Nick Holt, the heart and soul of the defense. The son of defensive coordinator Nick Holt Sr., Holt had 111 tackles. Also returning to flank Holt at outside linebacker is senior Dejon Brown, who was second on the team with 78 tackles.

Morris isn't listed as a returning starter for WKU, but he would have been for UAB had it not disbanded its program. At 6'2", 295 pounds, he will plug the middle at tackle after playing nose guard for the Blazers.

Strong safety Branden Leston and free safety Marcus Ward each had 63 tackles. Lesten led the team with four interceptions, while senior cornerback Wonderful Terry was indeed wonderful on his two interceptions, returning both for touchdowns.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Garrett Schwettman and punter Joseph Occhipinti return. Schwettman had plenty of extra-point attempts to go with making 16-of-21 field-goal tries. The Hilltoppers didn't do a lot of punting, but when they did, Occhipinti averaged 37.1 yards per try. Sophomore Kylen Towner has emerged as a reliable returner on kickoffs and punts. He averaged 22.7 on kickoff returns, including one of 94 yards for a score.

FINAL ANALYSIS Few programs have transitioned to the FBS level as well as WKU, which is just six years into its move up from FCS. Of 27 teams to make the jump since 1987, only eight reached a second bowl game during a six-year window. Eight of 20 head coaching openings in the country last year were filled by first-time head coaches, and Brohm was the only one of the eight to win a bowl game.

With all the offensive weapons returning, especially Doughty and Allen, the Hilltoppers will continue to score points. If the defense can at least start to slow teams down, WKU is poised to make that next jump to becoming a consistent Conference USA challenger.



JARED DANGERFIELD

"(QB) Brandon Doughty was phenomenal, and they have one of the best backs in the league to complement him."
-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	21	**Jared Dangerfield (Sr.)**	83	Will Bush (Fr.)	
WR	2	**Taywan Taylor (Jr.)**	3	Antwane Grant (Sr.)	
WR	15	Nicholas Norris (Jr.)	1	Nacarius Fant (So.)	
LT	76	**Forrest Lamp (Jr.)**	75	Jimmie Sims (So.)	
LG	51	**Brandon Ray (So.)**	73	Cullen Reynolds (Fr.)	
C	64	Dennis Edwards (Fr.)	70	Max Halpin (Jr.)	
RG	62	**Darrell Williams (Jr.)**	79	Joe Manley (Jr.)	
RT	69	Matt Nord (Jr.)	71	R.J. Scaife (Fr.)	
TE	82	Tyler Higbee (Sr.)	11	Devin Scott (Sr.)	
QB	12	**Brandon Doughty (Sr.)**	9	Nelson Fishback (Jr.)	
RB	33	**Leon Allen (Sr.)**	20	Anthony Wales (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	88	**Gavin Rocker (Sr.)**	11	Tanner Reeves (So.)	
DT	3	Jontavious Morris (Sr.)	55	Evan Sayner (Fr.)	
DT	94	**Bryan Shorter (Sr.)**	96	Julien Lewis (Fr.)	
DE	72	**Derik Overstreet (So.)**	48	Kalvin Robinson (Jr.)	
OLB	34	Drew Davis (Jr.)	6	TJ McCollum (So.)	
MLB	10	**Nick Holt (Sr.)**	4	Joel Iyiegbuniwe (Fr.)	
OLB	17	**Dejon Brown (Sr.)**	13	Nick Newton (Jr.)	
CB	5	Wonderful Terry (Sr.)	41	De'Andre Simmons (So.)	
CB	30	**Prince Charles Iworah (Sr.)**	7	Joe Brown (So.)	
SS	31	Branden Lesten (Jr.)	27	Martavius Mims (Fr.)	
FS	8	**Marcus Ward (Jr.)**	29	Leverick Johnson (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	56	Garrett Schwettman (Sr.)	KR	81	Kylen Towner (So.)
P	15	Joseph Occhipinti (Jr.)	PR	81	Kylen Towner (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Doughty, 552-375-4,830-10, 49 TDs
Rushing: Leon Allen, 272 att., 1,542 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Jared Dangerfield, 69 rec., 825 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Nick Holt, 111
Sacks: Gavin Rocker, 5.5; Bryan Shorter, 5.5
Interceptions: Branden Leston, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

WKU Athletics

LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

National Forecast: 86
C-USA West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Skip Holtz
Record at School: 13-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 101-84 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Petersen
Defensive Coordinator: Blake Baker
Ruston, LA • Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Southern
10 at Western Kentucky
19 at Kansas State
26 FIU

OCTOBER
3 UL Lafayette
10 at UTSA
17 at Mississippi State
24 Middle Tennessee
30 at Rice

NOVEMBER
7 North Texas
21 at UTEP
28 Southern Miss

2014 RESULTS (9-5, 7-1)

Aug.	30	at Oklahoma	L	16-48
Sept.	6	at UL Lafayette	W	48-20
Sept.	11	at North Texas	W	42-21
Sept.	20	Northwestern State	L	27-30
Sept.	27	at Auburn	L	17-45
Oct.	4	UTEP	W	55-3
Oct.	18	UTSA	W	27-20
Oct.	25	at Southern Miss	W	31-20
Nov.	1	Western Kentucky	W	59-10
Nov.	8	at UAB	W	40-24
Nov.	22	at Old Dominion	L	27-30
Nov.	29	Rice	W	76-31
Dec.	6	at Marshall %	L	23-26
Dec.	26	vs. Illinois #	W	35-18

%C-USA Championship #Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Johnny Shaw, S, Orange, TX
2. Rhashid Bonnette, WR, Loreauville, LA
3. J'Mar Smith, QB, Meridian, MS
4. Oshea Dugas, OT, Lafayette, LA
5. Courtney Wallace, DT, Monroe, LA
6. Ephraim Kitchen, CB, Batesville, MS
7. Jaqwis Dancy, RB, Junction City, AR
8. Javonte Woodard, WR, Haughton, LA
9. DeVante Lovett, OT, Strong, AR
10. Aaron Roberson, CB, Shreveport, LA

STAT CORNER

+19

Change in Tech's turnover margin from 2013 (-3) to 2014 (+16). Manny Diaz's attacking defensive scheme reaped rewards.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	37.4 ppg	3	13
Rushing	148.6 ypg	9	85
Passing	252.2 ypg	4	45
Total	400.8 ypg	5	62
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	24.7 ppg	2	38
Rushing	118.2 ypg	1	17
Passing	244.3 ypg	10	88
Total	362.5 ypg	2	34
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+16	+1.14	1	5

OFFENSE The Bulldogs are looking to duplicate last year's formula of having a fifth-year transfer quarterback come in and take control of the offense. Last year, Iowa transfer Cody Sokol enjoyed a phenomenal season with 3,436 yards and 30 touchdowns as he led an unexpected turnaround that culminated with a Heart of Dallas Bowl win.

This year, Jeff Driskel, the former No. 1-rated pro-style QB by Rivals in 2011, is coming in from Florida for his final season of eligibility. He battled Ryan Higgins for first-team status in the spring, but Driskel is the safe bet to land the job in the fall. The 6'4", 234-pounder has a strong arm and the ability to run when needed (he ran for more than 50 yards in a game five times in his Florida career).

Driskel is stepping into an offense long on skill position players. Senior running back Kenneth Dixon had 1,684 total yards and 28 touchdowns, and wide receivers Paul Turner (a former LSU transfer) and Trent Taylor should be All-C-USA players. Speedy Carlos Henderson will also be a deep threat on the outside.

The Bulldogs will feature a veteran offensive line that likely will start three juniors and two seniors. The new left guard, David Mahaffey, started the C-USA Championship Game and the Heart of Dallas Bowl.

DEFENSE The name of Louisiana Tech's game in 2014 was taking the ball away, as the Bulldogs led the nation in turnovers and were tied for the national lead in interceptions. Three starters return in the secondary looking for more thievery in 2015. Safety Xavier Woods did it all last season (six interceptions, two TDs, three forced fumble, one blocked kick) and will be an All-America candidate as a junior. Fellow safety standout Kentrell Brice is another big playmaker who should be All-C-USA, and corner Adairius Barnes (five interceptions) is another who will contend for all-league honors.

The defensive line returns two solid pieces in end Vontarrius Dora and tackle Vernon Butler, two seniors who stood out on a defense that was 17th against the rush a year ago under now-departed coordinator Manny Diaz. If there are questions on defense, they are at linebacker, where three new starters will be coming into the fold with little depth behind them. Nick Thomason should be solid in the middle, with fifth-year senior Beau Fitte on one side and either C.J. Cleveland or Russell Farris on the other.

SPECIAL TEAMS Louisiana Tech's return game is in good shape, with the speedy Henderson back to return kicks after averaging 25.9 yards last year, including a 96-yard touchdown. Taylor is again expected to handle punt return duties after a solid season as a sophomore. Jonathan Barnes and Kyle Fischer combined to miss three extra points last season and were 10-of-20 on field goals from beyond 30 yards, so placekicking is an issue. Logan McPherson is back to punt after an inconsistent season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bulldogs are expected to repeat as C-USA West champs, though their two most challenging league games — Western Kentucky and Rice — are both on the road. Two other significant road challenges will come at Kansas State (9–4 in 2014) and Mississippi State (10–3), although coach Skip Holtz should plan on another bowl trip this holiday season. Driskel's acclimation to his new offense is the key. He has plenty of skill pieces in place to propel him to the consistent level of success he never enjoyed at Florida. The defense is again loaded with playmakers, but linebackers must emerge if it wants to be one of the league's best units. This should be another fun season in Ruston.


KENNETH DIXON

"I think it'll really hurt Skip Holtz losing (defensive coordinator) Manny Diaz. He did a great job there."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	**Paul Turner (Sr.)**	39	Marcus Gaines (So.)
WR	5	**Trent Taylor (Jr.)**	87	Grant Childress (Jr.)
WR	1	**Carlos Henderson (So.)**	85	Marlon Watts (So.)
WR	9	Conner Smith (Jr.)	80	Kameron McKnight (Fr.)
LT	77	Jens Danielsen (Sr.)	72	Derek Edinburgh Jr. (Jr.)
LG	55	David Mahaffey (Jr.)	66	Shane Carpenter (Fr.)
C	73	**Kirby Wixson (Sr.)**	79	Cam Manning (So.)
RG	62	**Joseph Brunson (Jr.)**	76	Clayton Landry (Jr.)
RT	75	**Darrell Brown (Jr.)**	68	Josh Robinson (Sr.)
QB		Jeff Driskel (Sr.)	14	Ryan Higgins (Jr.)
RB	28	**Kenneth Dixon (Sr.)**	22	Jarred Craft (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	8	**Vontarrius Dora (Sr.)**	45	Jaylon Ferguson (Fr.)
DT	9	**Vernon Butler (Sr.)**	96	Tyler Porter (Sr.)
DT	98	**Aaron Brown (Jr.)**	91	Cedric Johnson (Fr.)
DE	50	Deldrick Canty (So.)	95	Matthew Ydarraga (Fr.)
LB	6	Beau Fitte (Sr.)	37	Michael Mims (So.)
LB	24	Nick Thomason (Sr.)	52	Quanta Moore (Fr.)
LB	29	C.J. Cleveland (Sr.)	51	Russell Farris (So.)
CB	21	**Adairius Barnes (Sr.)**	38	Michael Jacob (So.)
CB	15	Bryson Abraham (Sr.)	40	Roland Dunn (So.)
S	7	**Xavier Woods (Jr.)**	35	Secdrick Cooper (So.)
S	23	**Kentrell Brice (Sr.)**	36	Tee Sparrow (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Jonathan Barnes (So.)	KR	1	Carlos Henderson (So.)
P	43	Logan McPherson (Jr.)	PR	5	Trent Taylor (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Higgins, 10-6-69-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Kenneth Dixon, 253 att., 1,299 yds., 22 TDs
Receiving: Trent Taylor, 64 rec., 834 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Kentrell Brice, 86
Sacks: Kentrell Brice, 4; Vontarrius Dora, 4
Interceptions: Xavier Woods, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Louisiana Tech Athletics

NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

National Forecast: 117
C-USA West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Dan McCarney
Record at School: 22-27 (4 years)
Career Record: 78-112 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Canales
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Cosh
Denton, TX • Apogee Stadium (30,850)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
12	at SMU
19	Rice
26	at Iowa
OCTOBER	
3	at Southern Miss
10	Portland State
15	Western Kentucky
24	at Marshall
31	UTSA
NOVEMBER	
7	at Louisiana Tech
14	at Tennessee
21	at Middle Tennessee
28	UTEP

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Aug.	30	at Texas	L	7-38
Sept.	6	SMU	W	43-6
Sept.	11	Louisiana Tech	L	21-42
Sept.	20	Nicholls	W	77-3
Oct.	4	at Indiana	L	24-49
Oct.	11	at UAB	L	21-56
Oct.	18	Southern Miss	L	20-30
Oct.	25	at Rice	L	21-41
Nov.	8	Florida Atlantic	W	31-10
Nov.	15	at UTEP	L	17-35
Nov.	22	FIU	W	17-14
Nov.	29	at UTSA	L	27-34

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kevin Dillman, ATH, Denton, TX
2. D'Aundrey Bradley, WR, Cedar Hill, TX
3. Ashton Preston, CB, Edmond, OK
4. Xavier Grindle, CB, Columbia, MS*
5. Creighton Barr, OL, Flower Mound, TX
6. James Gray, S, Atlanta, GA*
7. DeMarcus Smith, QB, Louisville, KY*
8. Rodney Bendy, WR, Tyler, TX
9. Nate Brooks, CB, Whitehouse, TX
10. Taylor Robinson, CB, Fort Worth, TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

5

Plays of 70-plus yards given up by the North Texas defense last season. Only four FBS teams allowed more.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	27.2 ppg	7	76
Rushing	153.2 ypg	8	77
Passing	172.8 ypg	10	109
Total	325.9 ypg	10	114
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	7	84
Rushing	161.8 ypg	6	56
Passing	207.7 ypg	4	34
Total	369.4 ypg	5	42
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
0	0.00	6	59

OFFENSE North Texas ranked 114th nationally in total offense last season. There are still quarterback questions, and the previous strength, a veteran offensive line, has mostly graduated. Four new starters will be up front. "It's a major void," coach Dan McCarney says. "Those new guys have come together and developed, but four new starters is still four new starters."

UNT has settled on Andrew McNulty as its quarterback after other contenders did not impress. McNulty started six games last season, passing for 1,295 yards, six TDs and seven interceptions. McCarney says McNulty's offseason progress reminds him of the same growth former standout Derek Thompson made heading into his senior season. UNT should be so fortunate.

Wideout Carlos Harris, already with 136 career catches, enters his senior season on pace to finish as one of the program's most productive receivers. Tight end Marcus Smith led the team with six TD catches last season. But Harris and Smith are possession receivers in need of a big-play partner. Redshirt freshman Tee Goree, one of the team's top recruits a year ago, could fill that role.

UNT should remain a run-first team with the return of leading rusher Antoinne Jimmerson (589 yards), but look for Jeffrey Wilson (224 yards) to get more carries.

DEFENSE The defensive line was completely rebuilt a year ago, and now it must be a strength as other units break in new starters. Defensive ends Chad Polk and Tillman Johnson accounted for 10.5 of the team's 33 sacks last season and are part of a rotation at end. Also, Jareid Combs, who had 17 sacks in junior college last season, joins the mix. But the line needs more than a pass rush. "I think we can get into a nine to 10-man rotation of quality players on the line," McCarney says. "So I feel a lot better about that than I did a year ago."

In the back seven, two all-league players must be replaced, including linebacker Derek Akunne, Conference USA's leader in tackles per game last season. To shake up the group, returning starter Fred Scott moves from middle to outside linebacker, and Buffalo transfer Blake Bean steps into the middle.

Kenny Buyers is a team captain and dependable cornerback, but the other cornerback spot may be fluid. Free safety Kishawn McClain returns after earning C-USA All-Freshman honors, but he must move into a leading role amid an inexperienced secondary.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Trevor Moore is back after a Freshman All-America season in which he made 15-of-17 field goals. Eric Keena ranked second in C-USA in punting average (44.8), and UNT returns key parts of a unit that ranked fifth nationally in kick return coverage.

FINAL ANALYSIS In 2013, McCarney finished a three-year plan with a senior-laden squad that went 9–4. After going 4–8 last season and still carrying several concerns, this team looks to be in the middle of that three-year cycle, at best. The offense will try to go more up-tempo to mask inexperience on the line. The defense will attempt to reload under new coordinator Chris Cosh. And McCarney will throw some young talent on the field in hopes of finding the next wave of standout players.

UNT's quirky schedule offers no favors. After a Week 1 off date, it plays 12 straight weeks with no bye and only five home games. Trips to Tennessee and Iowa highlight the non-conference slate. And C-USA cross-division opponents include Marshall (13–1 in 2014), Western Kentucky (8–5) and Middle Tennessee (6–6).

"That schedule is why everyone has so much urgency around here," McCarney says. "We want to win and not just show up, but we are a team in development right now."


CARLOS HARRIS

"The right tackle they lost was their best player by far (Cyril Lemon). That guy was a stud. Big loss."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	1	Turner Smiley (So.)	80	O'Keeron Rutherford (Fr.)	
WR	9	**Carlos Harris (Sr.)**	3	Tee Goree (Fr.)	
WR	4	Darvin Kidsy (Jr.)	81	Daniel Khan (Fr.)	
LT	66	Michael Banogu (Sr.)	72	Ryan Renfro (Jr.)	
LG	64	Sam Rice (Jr.)	60	Avery Fortenberry (Fr.)	
C	50	**Kaydon Kirby (So.)**	54	Creighton Barr (Fr.)	
RG	65	Micah Thompson (Sr.)	57	Brian Ochs (Jr.)	
RT	67	Chris Miles (Fr.)	73	Garrett Gunter (Jr.)	
TE	18	**Marcus Smith (Sr.)**	14	Chris Loving (Sr.)	
QB	5	**Andrew McNulty (Jr.)**	8	Josh Greer (Jr.)	
RB	26	Jeffrey Wilson (So.)	22	Antoinne Jimmerson (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	99	Andy Flusche (So.)		Jareid Combs (Jr.)
DT	91	**Austin Orr (Sr.)**	63	Sid Moore (So.)
DT	94	Mustafa Haboul (Jr.)	70	**Sir Calvin Wallace (Jr.)**
DE	30	Jarrian Roberts (Jr.)	42	**Chad Polk (Sr.)**
OLB	32	**Fred Scott (Jr.)**	17	Cortney Finney (Jr.)
MLB	27	Blake Bean (Sr.)	43	Anthony Wallace (Sr.)
OLB	3	Calvin Minor (So.)	6	Sed Ellis (Jr.)
CB	31	**Kenny Buyers (Sr.)**	38	Andrew Jones (Fr.)
CB	16	Chad Davis (Jr.)	8	Jamal Marshall (Sr.)
SS	21	James Gray (Jr.)	14	Cedric Fernandes (Fr.)
FS	34	Kishawn McClain (So.)	5	Matthew Dash (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Trevor Moore (So.)	KR	9	Carlos Harris (Sr.)
P	84	Eric Keena (Jr.)	PR	4	Darvin Kidsy (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Andrew McNulty, 202-110-1,295-7, 6 TDs
Rushing: Antoinne Jimmerson, 120 att., 589 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Carlos Harris, 70 rec., 863 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Kenny Buyers, 55
Sacks: Chad Polk, 5.5
Interceptions: Kenny Buyers, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

RICE OWLS

National Forecast: 89
C-USA West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: David Bailiff
Record at School: 48-53 (8 years)
Career Record: 69-68 (11 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Larry Edmondson, Billy Lynch
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Thurmond
Houston, TX • Rice Stadium (47,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Wagner	
12	at Texas	
19	at North Texas	
26	at Baylor	
OCTOBER		
3	Western Kentucky	
10	at Florida Atlantic	
24	Army	
30	Louisiana Tech	
NOVEMBER		
6	at UTEP	
14	Southern Miss	
21	at UTSA	
28	Charlotte	

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug.	30	at Notre Dame	L	17-48
Sept.	13	at Texas A&M	L	10-38
Sept.	20	Old Dominion	L	42-45
Sept.	27	at Southern Miss	W	41-23
Oct.	4	Hawaii	W	28-14
Oct.	11	at Army	W	41-21
Oct.	25	North Texas	W	41-21
Nov.	1	at FIU	W	31-17
Nov.	8	UTSA	W	17-7
Nov.	15	at Marshall	L	14-41
Nov.	21	UTEP	W	31-13
Nov.	29	at Louisiana Tech	L	31-76
Dec.	24	vs. Fresno State #	W	30-6

#Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zach Abercrumbia, DT, Dallas, TX
2. Carl Thompson, DT, Denton, TX
3. J.T. Granato, QB, Bellaire TX
4. Blain Padgett, DE, Sour Lake, TX
5. Jackson Tyner, ATH, Edgewood, TX
6. Isaiah Edwards, OG, Katy, TX
7. Nahshon Ellerbe, RB, Frisco, TX
8. Christian Bertrand, S, Missouri City, TX
9. Emmanuel Esukpa, RB, Mansfield, TX
10. Brandon Douglas, CB, Hutto, TX

STAT CORNER

5

Bowl trips earned by Rice in the last nine seasons. Prior to 2006, the Owls hadn't made it to a bowl game since the 1961 season.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	28.8 ppg	6	63
Rushing	167.8 ypg	5	57
Passing	231.5 ypg	5	62
Total	399.2 ypg	6	65
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	28.5 ppg	6	80
Rushing	152.5 ypg	3	45
Passing	233.4 ypg	7	77
Total	385.9 ypg	7	54
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+8	+0.62	4	22

OFFENSE Fifth-year senior quarterback Driphus Jackson continues to build confidence after throwing for nearly 3,000 yards and 24 touchdowns in his first season as the Owls' starter. The dual-threat Jackson sat out most of the spring following off-season surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder but is expected to be ready for the start of fall camp.

At running back, Rice has arguably the best 1-2 combo in Conference USA in Jowan Davis, who came within 44 yards of his first 1,000-yard season, and Darik Dillard, who had 11 rushing touchdowns. The Owls present challenges with the ability to show multiple looks out of the backfield, particularly with former high school quarterback Luke Turner in the team's Wild Owl package.

Dennis Parks, a physical receiver, is the top returner along with Zach Wright, who saw extensive playing time due to injuries. The other candidates — James Mayden, Temi Alaka and Cameron Decell — had a combined 13 catches a year ago. The biggest loss on offense was Jordan Taylor, who finished as the No. 2 receiver in school history (total yards and touchdown receptions).

Four-year starter Caleb Williams returns at right tackle, and Andrew Reue, a three-year starter, is projected at left guard. Redshirt freshman Calvin Anderson is the frontrunner to start at left tackle, although the Owls have some flexibility with Reue able to play all five positions on the offensive line.

DEFENSE A defensive line expected to be one of the best in C-USA suffered major losses in the offseason. First, Christian Covington, despite missing most of 2014 with a knee injury, opted to skip his final year and enter the NFL Draft. Then All-C-USA first-teamer Brian Nordstrom, who had 7.5 sacks and 19.5 tackles for a loss, quit football to take a six-figure job in the oil and gas industry. Those moves left the Owls scrambling to fill holes this spring. Nose tackle Ross Winship is the only returning regular. Stuart Mouchantaf is expected to be healthy after missing most of the past two seasons with a knee injury, while Graysen Schantz and Brian Womac have the inside track for starting jobs at defensive end.

There's strength at linebacker, led by Alex Lyons, who led the team in tackles and was an All-C-USA selection, and Nick Elder.

The Owls have made strides in pass coverage in recent years under veteran defensive coordinator Chris Thurmond, who seems to get the most out of talent. He'll be faced with a huge challenge with four new starters in the secondary. The lone holdover is Ryan Pollard at cornerback. V.J. Banks, who played as a true freshman, is a candidate to play opposite Pollard.

SPECIALISTS The most pressing special teams concern is finding more consistency on field goals and extra points. The Owls used a scholarship on kicker Jack Fox, rated the No. 15 high school kicker in the nation, and will give him a chance to win the job in fall camp. Punter James Farrimond has emerged as a difference maker, averaging 42 yards to earn a spot on the Ray Guy Award watch list last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rice has come a long way since the days of being "everybody's homecoming game," head coach David Bailiff says. The best three-year stretch in school history has produced three straight bowl appearances (two wins), 25 victories and a 2013 C-USA title. Construction began this offseason on a $31.5 million end-zone training facility, and there are talks about a much-needed facelift for Rice Stadium. With so many questions — and a tough opening month — it might be asking too much to come close to the win totals from the last three seasons, but the Owls should be in position for another bowl trip.


DRIPHUS JACKSON

"They should win the West. The quarterback is a phenomenal player. He's really, really talented."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	4	**Dennis Parks (Sr.)**	9	Zach Wright (Jr.)	
WR	9	Zach Wright (Jr.)	85	Cameron Decell (Jr.)	
WR	12	Temi Alaka (So.)	2	James Mayden (So.)	
LT	66	Calvin Anderson (Fr.)	76	Sam Pierce (Fr.)	
LG	77	**Andrew Reue (Sr.)**	70	Kenneth Thompson (So.)	
C	52	Spencer Stanley (Jr.)	54	Trey Martin (So.)	
RG	51	Peter Godber (So.)	56	Corey Klingler (Fr.)	
RT	75	**Caleb Williams (Sr.)**	55	John Poehlmann (Sr.)	
TE	87	Connor Cella (Jr.)	35	Luke Turner (Sr.)	
QB	6	**Driphus Jackson (Sr.)**	10	Tyler Stehling (Jr.)	
RB	3	**Jowan Davis (Jr.)**	1	Darik Dillard (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (2)

DE	44	Brian Womac (So.)	98	Connor Johnson (So.)
DT	92	Stuart Mouchantaf (Sr.)	80	Grant Peterson (Sr.)
DT	99	Ross Winship (Sr.)	58	Cody Henessee (Jr.)
DE	94	Graysen Schantz (So.)	40	Brady Wright (Fr.)
LB	4	**Alex Lyons (Jr.)**	42	Emmanuel Ellerbee (So.)
LB	46	Nick Elder (Sr.)	25	Tabari McGaskey (Jr.)
CB	22	**Ryan Pollard (Sr.)**	14	J.T. Blasingame (Jr.)
CB	19	V.J. Banks (So.)	23	Aston Walter (Fr.)
S	6	Zach Espinosa (Sr.)	11	Garrett Fuhrman (Sr.)
S	28	Cole Thomas (So.)	17	J.T. Ibe (Fr.)
KAT	13	Destri White (So.)	31	Martin Nwakamma (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jack Fox (Fr.)	KR	18	Brandon Hamilton (Jr.)
P	3	James Farrimond (Sr.)	PR	27	Austin Walter (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Driphus Jackson, 331-191-2,842-8, 24 TDs
Rushing: Jowan Davis, 245 att., 956 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Dennis Parks, 29 rec., 389 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Alex Lyons, 71
Sacks: Alex Lyons, 3; Graysen Schantz, 3
Interceptions: Ryan Pollard, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

National Forecast: 116
C-USA West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Todd Monken
Record at School: 4-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 4-20 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Chip Lindsey
Defensive Coordinator: David Duggan
Hattiesburg, MS
M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Mississippi State
12 Austin Peay
19 at Texas State
26 at Nebraska

OCTOBER
3 North Texas
9 at Marshall
17 UTSA
24 at Charlotte
31 UTEP

NOVEMBER
14 at Rice
21 Old Dominion
28 at Louisiana Tech

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Aug.	30	at Mississippi State	L	0-49
Sept.	6	Alcorn State	W	26-20
Sept.	13	at Alabama	L	12-52
Sept.	20	Appalachian State	W	21-20
Sept.	27	Rice	L	23-41
Oct.	4	at Middle Tennessee	L	31-37
Oct.	18	at North Texas	W	30-20
Oct.	25	Louisiana Tech	L	20-31
Nov.	1	at UTEP	L	14-35
Nov.	8	Marshall	L	17-63
Nov.	13	at UTSA	L	10-12
Nov.	29	UAB	L	24-45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ricky Parks, DE, LaGrange, GA*
2. Paxton Schrimsher, LB, Athens, AL
3. Deshadrick Truly, DB, Charleston, MS*
4. Gabe Green, QB, Springfield, IL
5. D'Nerius Antoine, DB, New Iberia, LA*
6. Julian Allen, TE, Sewell, NJ*
7. Devonta Foster, DB, Chester, SC*
8. Patrick Brooks, RB, Tampa, FL
9. Ladarius Harris, DT, Pinson, AL
10. Derrick Dixon, DE, Lancaster, PA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

4

Since winning the 2011 Hawaii Bowl to finish 12-2, Southern Miss has won just four games in three years. They've lost 32.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	19.0 ppg	11	114
Rushing	95.8 ypg	12	121
Passing	269.3 ypg	3	33
Total	365.0 ypg	7	97
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	35.4 ppg	11	109
Rushing	216.3 ypg	10	110
Passing	235.1 ypg	8	81
Total	451.4 ypg	9	104
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-10	-0.83	12	112

OFFENSE Todd Monken begins his third season at Southern Miss hoping to keep the Golden Eagles trending back toward their successful past. USM enters the fall having improved from a disastrous 0–12 in 2012 to 1–11 in 2013 and 3–9 in 2014. The last time Southern Miss endured three straight losing seasons was 1929-31. Monken may get the Golden Eagles winning again by creating healthy competition at the quarterback position. He returns Nick Mullens, who has started 16 games, and adds TCU transfer Tyler Matthews, who was recruited by Monken to Oklahoma State when he was the Big 12 school's offensive coordinator. Matthews, a better runner than Mullens, will be familiar with the USM offense. Mullens passed for 2,470 yards and 12 touchdowns last year despite missing several games with a foot injury.

At running back, 5'9" Ito Smith is back after leading the Golden Eagles with 536 rushing yards. George Payne, solid in short-yardage situations, has scored most of the team's rushing touchdowns the past two seasons, while sophomore Tez Parks is USM's most powerful back and averaged 5.6 yards per carry last year. Southern Miss needs much more production from its backs after the rushing offense ranked last in Conference USA.

Monken beefed up the Golden Eagles' offensive line in his latest recruiting class, including four mid-year transfers who participated in spring workouts. USM finds itself with its best depth up front since Monken arrived, as four starters return.

Sure-handed Casey Martin is a possession receiver who led the Golden Eagles with 55 catches a year ago. Outside receiver Michael Thomas also was one of Mullens' top targets with 592 receiving yards and five touchdowns.

DEFENSE Known for their stout defensive reputation, the Golden Eagles have fallen in recent seasons. They ranked ninth in the league in total defense, 10th in rushing defense and 11th in scoring defense. USM also ranked last in the league in turnover margin, losing 26 and gaining only 16.

It doesn't help the Golden Eagles that defensive tackle Rakeem Nunez-Roches left after his junior season to make himself eligible for the NFL Draft or that the top three tacklers — safeties Jacorius Cotton and Emmanuel Johnson and linebacker Alan Howze — completed their eligibility.

Senior linebacker Brian Anderson, the top returning tackler, is back to provide leadership along with Elijah Parker. D'Nerius Antoine, a midyear signee, quickly established himself at a hybrid linebacker/defensive back spot in the spring.

In the secondary, there's not a better name in the league than Picasso Nelson Jr., who may move from cornerback to safety this fall. Junior college transfers Deshadrick Truly and Devonta Foster could step in and be factors, too.

SPECIALISTS The Golden Eagles must find a replacement for kicker Corey Acosta, who made 19-of-25 attempts last year, including a 52-yarder. Among those competing for the spot is UAB transfer Nick Vogel, who redshirted last fall, and Parker Shaunfield. Punter Tyler Sarrazin is back after averaging 39.5 yards on 66 kicks.

FINAL ANALYSIS With September games against Mississippi State and Nebraska, the early season schedule will be daunting for a rebuilding program that has only four wins the past three years. But Monken is moving toward opening up his offense as he adds depth. Matthews, the TCU transfer at quarterback, could be an interesting addition on offense if he beats out Mullens. Regardless, the offense must improve. The Golden Eagles scored only 23 touchdowns, which ranked 12th among the league's 13 schools, and averaged only 19.0 points per game.


MICHAEL THOMAS

Matt Bush/CSM/Landov

"That cupboard was really, really bare when Todd Monken got there and it's just going to take some time."

-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	88	**Michael Thomas (Sr.)**	6	**Marquise Ricard (Jr.)**
WR	15	James Cox (Jr.)	83	Casey Martin (Sr.)
WR	5	D.J. Thompson (Jr.)	18	Korey Robertson (Fr.)
LT	73	**Rashod Hill (Sr.)**	52	Tyler Stutzman (Jr.)
LG	68	**Brandon Farmer (Jr.)**	77	Jacob Fleming (Jr.)
C	70	**Cameron Tom (Jr.)**	61	Bradley Nugent (Sr.)
RG	78	**Devin Farrior (So.)**	74	Jerry Harris (So.)
RT	72	Norman Price (Sr.)	66	Drew Peterson (Sr.)
TE	42	Taylor Marini (So.)	3	Daythan Davis (So.)
QB	9	**Nick Mullens (Jr.)**	16	Tyler Matthews (So.)
RB	25	Ito Smith (So.)	24	George Payne (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	85	Ja'Boree Poole (Jr.)	56	Jon Michael Edwards (Fr.)
DT	91	Michael Smith (Sr.)	9	Draper Riley (So.)
DT	46	Wil Freeman (Sr.)	97	Christopher Robinson (So.)
DE	94	Dylan Bradley (Jr.)	38	Jerry McCorvey (Jr.)
LB	16	Elijah Parker (Jr.)	14	Terrick Wright (Sr.)
LB	18	**Brian Anderson (Sr.)**	40	C.J. Perry (Jr.)
LB	12	D'Nerius Antoine (Jr.)	17	David Bertucci (Sr.)
CB	3	Cornell Armstrong (So.)	19	Curtis Mikell (So.)
CB	11	**Kalan Reed (Sr.)**	7	Jomez Applewhite (So.)
S	21	Troy Jeter (Jr.)	5	Walden Davis (Fr.)
S	13	**Picasso Nelson (So.)**	1	Xavier Marion (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93	Parker Shaunfield (Fr.)	KR	88	Michael Thomas (Sr.)
P	82	Tyler Sarrazin (Jr.)	PR	83	Casey Martin (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Mullens, 365-218-2,470-9, 12 TDs
Rushing: Ito Smith, 136 att., 536 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Casey Martin, 55 rec., 531 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Brian Anderson, 65
Sacks: Dylan Bradley, 3.0
Interceptions: Three players tied with 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UTEP MINERS

National Forecast: 100
C-USA West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Sean Kugler
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 9-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Patrick Higgins
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Stoker
El Paso, TX • Sun Bowl (51,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Arkansas
12 at Texas Tech
19 at New Mexico State
26 Incarnate Word

OCTOBER
3 UTSA
10 at FIU
24 Florida Atlantic
31 at Southern Miss

NOVEMBER
6 Rice
14 at Old Dominion
21 Louisiana Tech
28 at North Texas

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug.	30	at New Mexico	W	31-24
Sept.	6	Texas Tech	L	26-30
Sept.	13	New Mexico State	W	42-24
Sept.	27	at Kansas State	L	28-58
Oct.	4	at Louisiana Tech	L	3-55
Oct.	11	Old Dominion	W	42-35
Oct.	25	at UTSA	W	34-0
Nov.	1	Southern Miss	W	35-14
Nov.	8	at Western Kentucky	L	27-35
Nov.	15	North Texas	W	35-17
Nov.	21	at Rice	L	13-31
Nov.	29	Middle Tennessee	W	24-21
Dec.	20	vs. Utah State #	L	6-21

#New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kalon Beverly, DB, New Orleans, LA
2. Kavika Johnson, QB, Las Cruces, NM
3. Josiah Gray, OL, Rancho, CA
4. Elliott Oldham, WR, Detroit, MI*
5. Sky Logan, DT, Raymond, MS*
6. Cole Ford, TE, Bothell, WA
7. Chance Bishop, OL, Kennedale, TX
8. Denzel Chukwukelu, DT, Rockwall, TX
9. Demarcus Womack, DT, New York, NY*
10. Ruben Guerra, OT, Bakersfield, CA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

30.5

UTEP averaged 30.5 seconds between plays, shrinking the game and establishing what was easily the slowest tempo in FBS.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	26.6 ppg	8	81
Rushing	207.8 ypg	4	33
Passing	142.9 ypg	12	118
Total	350.7 ypg	9	105
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	5	75
Rushing	176.8 ypg	8	77
Passing	191.2 ypg	1	15
Total	368.1 ypg	4	38
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+9	+0.69	3	18

OFFENSE The one big question that surrounds a UTEP team that returns key personnel on both sides of the ball is what it will do in the passing game, particularly at quarterback.

Sophomore Mack Leftwich, the son of offensive line coach Spencer Leftwich, redshirted last season after starting at the end of the 2013 season and will likely emerge from a three-way battle to take over from the graduated Jameill Showers. It will be new group of receivers as well, but UTEP wasn't particularly good in the passing game last season and still went 7–6.

The good news is that four returning offensive linemen, led by C-USA All-Freshman guards Derek Elmendorff and Will Hernandez, and fullback Darrin Laufasa will be protecting Leftwich. More important, they will be opening holes for star running back Aaron Jones in an attack that starts and ends with power rushing. Jones was second-team all-conference last year after rushing for 1,321 yards and 11 touchdowns. He had 237 in the opener against New Mexico and also had 144 against Big 12 opponent Texas Tech.

When UTEP does throw, the big targets will be Autrey Golden, who switched from tailback to featured receiver in the middle of last year, and tight end M.J. McFarland, who started four games for Texas in 2014 before graduating and transferring. Beyond that, UTEP has virtually no pass-catching experience. Tyler Batson, Donovan Walker and Jaquan White lead the chase for the second receiver role, while transfer Hayden Plinke also figures to be a big target as a backup tight end.

DEFENSE After struggling horribly on the this side of the ball for most of a decade, UTEP built its surprising winning season in 2014 around its defense. Five key members of the front six in the 4-2-5 defense return — linemen Roy Robertson-Harris, Nick Usher and Gino Bresolin as well as linebackers Jimmy Musgrave and Alvin Jones. Safeties Da'Shone Smith and Devin Cockrell are also back.

Even at corner, where UTEP lost both starters from last year, there is a deep group of players with significant experience, led by Ishmael Harrison and Traun Roberson.

After a brief midseason swoon last year, the defense rallied and played better down the stretch to help the Miners get to a bowl. This group only figures to get better in the third year of defensive coordinator Scott Stoker's system. After forcing just 12 turnovers in 2013, the Miners got 21 last season and ranked third in the league in turnover margin (+0.69 per game).

SPECIALISTS Golden is a player to watch, as his six career kickoff return touchdowns are one short of the NCAA record. Junior college transfer Terry Juniel was brought in to address an anemic punt return game. UTEP had all sorts of gaffes when it was punting the ball last year but largely fixed the issue at midseason when placekicker Jay Mattox took over the punting duties. UTEP's net improved by almost 10 yards per punt after the move, and Mattox should again handle all kicking duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS In just three springs, coach Sean Kugler has built exactly the team he wants at his alma mater: An offense that pounds the ball up the middle, a stout defense that makes plays and a squad that avoids penalties and turnovers. UTEP's problems have come when it runs into teams with a similar mentality and better personnel, which happened in four of the six losses last season and figures to happen in the first game of the season at Arkansas. These Miners, though, should be better than last year, and for the first time since 2006, they're building off a winning season.


AARON JONES

"For them to go 7–6 last year and get to a bowl game was a phenomenal coaching job by Sean Kugler."
-An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	8	Autrey Golden (Sr.)	7	Donovan Walker (So.)	
WR	83	Tyler Batson (So.)	1	Elliott Oldham (Jr.)	
LT	70	**Jerome Daniels (Jr.)**	77	Chris Thomas (Jr.)	
LG	76	**Will Hernandez (So.)**	58	Chris Jones (Fr.)	
C	60	**Eric Lee (Sr.)**	65	Derron Gatewood (Fr.)	
RG	75	**Derek Elmendorff (So.)**	79	Christopher Misaalefua (Fr.)	
RT	77	Chris Thomas (Jr.)	74	John De La Rosa (Jr.)	
TE	11	M.J. McFarland (Sr.)	85	Hayden Plinke (Jr.)	
QB	16	Mack Leftwich (So.)	17	Garrett Simpson (Jr.)	
FB	15	**Darrin Laufasa (Jr.)**	25	Sloan Spiller (So.)	
RB	29	**Aaron Jones (Jr.)**	24	David Hamm (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	36	**Nick Usher (Jr.)**	50	Luke Elsner (So.)	
DT	92	Alex Villarrel (Sr.)	97	Brian Madunezim (Jr.)	
DT	63	**Gino Bresolin (Jr.)**	66	Christian Harper (Jr.)	
DE	43	**Roy Robertson-Harris (Sr.)**	54	Silas Firstley (Jr.)	
MLB	10	Jimmy Musgrave (Sr.)	44	Cooper Foster (Jr.)	
WLB	16	**Alvin Jones (So.)**	35	Trey Brown (Sr.)	
CB	3	Traun Roberson (Sr.)	1	Trent Trammell (Sr.)	
CB	2	Ishmael Harrison (Sr.)	6	Da'Carlos Renfro (Sr.)	
SS	32	LaQuintus Dowell (Sr.)	12	Adrian Hynson (Fr.)	
FS	21	Dashone Smith (Jr.)	8	Kelvin Fisher (Sr.)	
WS	27	**Devin Cockrell (Jr.)**	5	Leon Hayes (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Jay Mattox (Jr.)	KR	8	Autrey Golden (Sr.)
P	47	Jay Mattox (Jr.)	PR	2	Terry Juniel (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Aaron Jones, 1-0-0-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Aaron Jones, 242 att., 1,321 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Aaron Jones, 30 rec., 293 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Alvin Jones, 55
Sacks: Roy Robertson-Harris, 3.5
Interceptions: Five players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UTEP Athletics

UTSA ROADRUNNERS

National Forecast: 123
C-USA West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Larry Coker
Record at School: 23–23 (4 years)
Career Record: 83–38 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Brown
Defensive Coordinator: Neal Neathery
San Antonio, TX • Alamodome (65,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 at Arizona
12 Kansas State
19 at Oklahoma State
26 Colorado State

OCTOBER
3 at UTEP
10 Louisiana Tech
17 at Southern Miss
31 at North Texas

NOVEMBER
7 Old Dominion
14 at Charlotte
21 Rice
28 Middle Tennessee

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug.	29	at Houston	W	27-7
Sept.	4	Arizona	L	23-26
Sept.	13	at Oklahoma State	L	13-43
Sept.	27	at Florida Atlantic	L	37-41
Oct.	4	New Mexico	L	9-21
Oct.	11	FIU	W	16-13
Oct.	18	at Louisiana Tech	L	20-27
Oct.	25	UTEP	L	0-34
Nov.	8	at Rice	L	7-17
Nov.	13	Southern Miss	W	12-10
Nov.	22	at Western Kentucky	L	7-45
Nov.	29	North Texas	W	34-27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jaylon Henderson, QB, Humble, TX
2. JaBryce Taylor, WR, Lufkin, TX*
3. Clayton Woods, C, Dallas, TX
4. JaColbie Butler, CB, Pearland, TX
5. Darryl Godfrey, S, San Antonio, TX
6. Jess Anders, RB, Aledo, TX
7. Matt Guidry, ATH, League City, TX
8. JaCorie Jones, CB, Port Arthur, TX
9. Peyton Hall, WR, San Antonio, TX
10. Alex Snow, C, League City, TX

*junior college transfer

Average yards per play for UTSA in 2014. The offense regressed by 1.5 per play from 2013, the second-biggest tumble in FBS.

STAT CORNER
4.5

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	17.1 ppg	12	118
Rushing	122.2 ypg	11	107
Passing	175.3 ypg	9	108
Total	297.5 ypg	11	119
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	4	54
Rushing	140.2 ypg	2	32
Passing	229.5 ypg	5	65
Total	369.7 ypg	6	43
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-3	-0.25	9	85

OFFENSE The biggest reason UTSA saw its scoring output drop by 8.5 points per game in 2014 was the play at quarterback, where four players labored through injuries and inexperience to compile a combined passer rating that ranked No. 119 in the nation.

The position was open during the spring, but the smart money is on Blake Bogenschutz to win the job in the fall. Bogenschutz was the No. 2 quarterback last season and filled in for injured starter Tucker Carter early before breaking his hand and seeing his season end in September. Bogenschutz appeared in three games (starting one) and completed 56 percent of his passes with no touchdown passes and two interceptions. Michigan transfer Russell Bellomy is eligible immediately after seeing little playing time in four years in Ann Arbor and is a wild card candidate who will compete for the job.

Whoever plays quarterback will at least have some help at running back, where the explosive Jarveon Williams should own the job after sharing it in his first two seasons. The offensive line, however, is undergoing a complete makeover and is expected to take its lumps.

Tight end David Morgan II might be the Roadrunners' most talented offensive player and will be a focal point of the passing game if he can stay healthy, which has been an issue. Wide receiver Kenny Bias appears to have his off-field issues resolved and could have a big season as a senior alongside dependable slot receiver Aaron Grubb.

DEFENSE The inexperience on the defensive side isn't quite as bad as on offense, but only three starters return to a unit that ranked 54th nationally in points allowed. The front four will have to be replaced, though three players who were in the two-deep rotation will step into starting roles. Senior Jason Neill will be a leader at defensive end and should be stronger another year removed from ACL surgery. Defensive tackle Brian Price sat out the spring as a precaution but will be counted on as he assumes a larger role.

Linebacker Drew Douglas is the defense's best player and will be an All-C-USA candidate. He was third on the team in tackles a year ago and plays a vital role in the Roadrunners' 4-2-5 scheme.

The secondary struggled at times, but the hope is that improvement will be made in this area. Former Oklahoma transfer Bennett Okotcha is the No. 1 corner and looks primed for a breakout senior season. At safety, Michael Egwuagu beat out Chase Dahlquist, although both should play. At the other two safety slots, athletic Nate Gaines, Baylor transfer Austin Jupe and returning starter Mauricio Sanchez will battle for time and solidify the back line.

SPECIALISTS The question marks that run rampant throughout the Roadrunners' two-deep don't stop when it comes to the specialists. Kicker Daniel Portillo and punter Yannis Routsas, a freshman, are both untested. Aaron Grubb is slated to handle both kickoff and punt return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS UTSA fell far short of expectations in 2014 when it welcomed back 19 starters from a 7–5 team. This year, the Roadrunners will not have to worry about the bar being set too high. With inexperience up and down the depth chart, serious questions at quarterback and a brutal non-conference slate that includes four bowl teams, coach Larry Coker is facing a steep challenge. UTSA is in only its fifth season as a Division-I program, but this could feel like Year 1 all over again unless several players step up and make big strides.



JARVEON WILLIAMS

"They lose something like 35 seniors, and I think it's going to be really hard for them to have success."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (0)

WR	81	Kenny Bias (Sr.)	89	Miles Lerch (Jr.)	
WR	7	Kerry Thomas Jr. (So.)	17	Aron Taylor (So.)	
WR	88	Aaron Grubb (Sr.)	10	Greg Campbell Jr. (Fr.)	
LT	74	Reed Darragh (So.)	52	Kelby Wickline (Fr.)	
LG	71	Cody Cole (So.)	67	Kyle McKinney (So.)	
C	60	Juan Perez (So.)	50	Clayton Woods (Fr.)	
RG	63	William Cavanaugh (Sr.)	66	Zach Hester (Sr.)	
RT	70	Jordan Gray (Sr.)	65	Michael Roberson (Sr.)	
TE	82	David Morgan II (Sr.)	87	Trevor Stevens (Jr.)	
QB	4	Blake Bogenschutz (Fr.)	3	Austin Robinson (So.)	
RB	2	Jarveon Williams (Jr.)	13	Brian Vaughn (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	93	Marcus Davenport (So.)	43	Ben Kane (Jr.)	
DT	91	Brian Price (Sr.)	90	Kennedy Ubabuike (Sr.)	
DT	97	Vontrell King-Williams (Jr.)	95	Joseph Brooks (Fr.)	
DE	96	Jason Neill (Sr.)	94	Codie Brooks (Jr.)	
LB	**32**	**Drew Douglas (Sr.)**	35	Justin Todd (Fr.)	
LB	53	Marcos Curry (So.)	56	Dalton Miller (Jr.)	
CB	**21**	**Bennett Okotcha (Sr.)**	24	N'Keal Bailey (So.)	
CB	26	Trevor Baker (Sr.)	3	Stanley Dye Jr. (Fr.)	
S	8	Michael Egwuagu (Jr.)	33	Chase Dahlquist (Jr.)	
S	**25**	**Mauricio Sanchez (Sr.)**	4	Austin Jupe (So.)	
S	11	Nate Gaines (So.)	30	Justin Chavez (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Daniel Portillo (So.)	KR	88	Aaron Grubb (Sr.)
P	39	Yannis Routsas (Fr.)	PR	88	Aaron Grubb (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Robinson, 146-81-645-5, 1 TD
Rushing: Jarveon Williams, 66 att., 325 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Aaron Grubb, 23 rec., 202 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Drew Douglas, 72
Sacks: Jason Neill, 3.5
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1.

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Jeff Huehn, UTSA Athletics

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SIXTHMAN

LEGENDARY COACHES

MAC PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	EAST	WEST
1	BOWLING GREEN FALCONS 8-5, 7-1 MAC	TOLEDO ROCKETS 9-4, 6-2 MAC
2	UMASS MINUTEMEN 6-6, 5-3 MAC	NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES 8-4, 6-2 MAC
3	AKRON ZIPS 6-6, 5-3 MAC	WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS 7-5, 6-2 MAC
4	OHIO BOBCATS 7-5, 4-4 MAC	BALL STATE CARDINALS 6-6, 4-4 MAC
5	BUFFALO BULLS 6-6, 3-5 MAC	CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS 4-8, 3-5 MAC
6	KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES 2-10, 1-7 MAC	EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES 1-11, 1-7 MAC
7	MIAMI (OHIO) REDHAWKS 2-10, 1-7 MAC	

MAC Championship Game
Toledo over Bowling Green

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Boca Raton Bowl: Marshall 52, No. Illinois 23

GoDaddy Bowl: Toledo 63, Arkansas State 44

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Air Force 38, Western Michigan 24

Bahamas Bowl: WKU 49, Central Michigan 48

Camellia Bowl: Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Boca Raton Bowl: Toledo vs. East Carolina

GoDaddy Bowl: Western Michigan vs. Arkansas State

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Bowling Green vs. Nevada

Bahamas Bowl: Northern Illinois vs. Middle Tennessee

Camellia Bowl: Akron vs. Appalachian State

Bowling Green: BGSU Marketing & Communications; Frohnapfel: Thom Kendall Photography/UMASS Athletics

2014 MAC STANDINGS

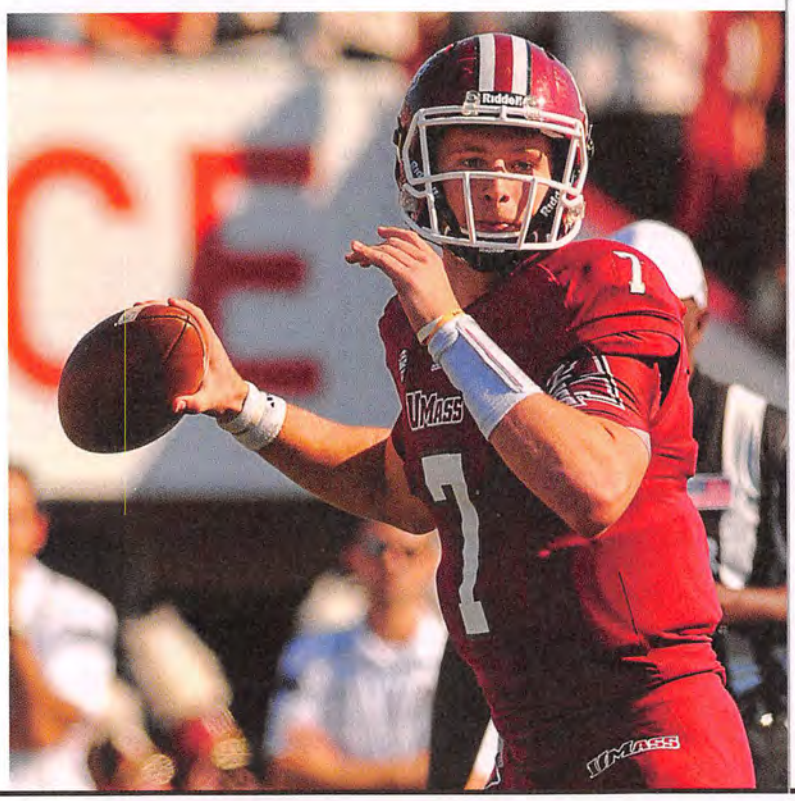
EAST	MAC	OVERALL	WEST	MAC	OVERALL
BOWLING GREEN	5-3	8-6	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	7-1	11-3
OHIO	4-4	6-6	TOLEDO	7-1	9-4
BUFFALO	3-4	5-6	WESTERN MICHIGAN	6-2	8-5
AKRON	3-5	5-7	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	5-3	7-6
UMASS	3-5	3-9	BALL STATE	4-4	5-7
MIAMI (OHIO)	2-6	2-10	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1-7	2-10
KENT STATE	1-6	2-9			

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	8	6	9	7	1	3	4
BALL STATE	9	11	6	3	9	8	11
BOWLING GREEN	2	3	1	1	8	11	7
BUFFALO	4	4	7	10	13	12	12
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	5	8	10	4	3	13	6
EASTERN MICHIGAN	10	12	13	13	12	9	13
KENT STATE	12	7	12	11	7	5	3
MIAMI (OHIO)	13	13	8	12	10	10	10
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	6	5	5	6	6	2	1
OHIO	11	10	11	5	4	1	8
TOLEDO	7	1	4	9	2	6	5
WESTERN MICHIGAN	3	2	3	2	5	7	2
UMASS	1	9	2	8	11	4	9

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Western Michigan 2. Miami (Ohio) 3. Toledo 4. Northern Illinois 5. Ohio
6. Central Michigan 7. Kent State 8. UMass 9. Bowling Green
10. Eastern Michigan 11. Ball State 12. Buffalo 13. Akron



PRESEASON ALL-MAC TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Blake Frohnapfel	6-6	229	Sr.	UMass
RB	Kareem Hunt	5-11	215	Jr.	Toledo
RB	Jarvion Franklin	6-0	220	So.	W. Michigan
WR	Corey Davis	6-3	205	Jr.	W. Michigan
WR	Roger Lewis	6-0	196	So.	Bowling Green
WR	Tajae Sharpe	6-4	200	Sr.	UMass
C	Andrew Ness	6-3	298	Sr.	No. Illinois
G	Alex Huettel	6-4	309	Sr.	Bowling Green
G	James Kristof	6-3	320	Sr.	W. Michigan
T	Willie Beavers	6-5	309	Sr.	W. Michigan
T	Storm Norton	6-8	310	Jr.	Toledo

First-Team Defense

DE	Perez Ford	6-0	223	Sr.	No. Illinois
DE	Trent Voss	6-3	220	Sr.	Toledo
DT	Pat O'Connor	6-4	257	Sr.	E. Michigan
DT	Cody Grice	5-11	284	Sr.	Akron
LB	Jatavis Brown	5-11	217	Sr.	Akron
LB	Great Ibe	6-0	213	Sr.	E. Michigan
LB	Jovan Santos-Knox	6-2	240	Sr.	UMass
CB	Randall Jette	5-11	180	Sr.	UMass
CB	Paris Logan	5-9	189	Sr.	No. Illinois
S	Tony Annese	6-1	203	Jr.	C. Michigan
S	Nate Holley	5-11	200	Jr.	Kent State

First-Team Specialists

K	Tyler Tate	6-0	185	Sr.	Bowling Green
P	Anthony Melchiori	5-11	186	Sr.	Kent State
KR	Darius Phillips	5-10	184	So.	W. Michigan
PR	Corey Jones	5-8	165	Jr.	Toledo

Second-Team Offense

QB	Matt Johnson	6-0	221	Sr.	Bowling Green
RB	Travis Greene	5-10	183	Sr.	Bowling Green
RB	Anthone Taylor	5-10	207	Sr.	Buffalo
WR	Corey Jones	5-8	165	Jr.	Toledo
WR	Jordan Williams	6-2	224	Sr.	Ball State
WR	Ron Willoughby	6-4	199	Sr.	Buffalo
C	Nick Beamish	6-3	310	Sr.	C. Michigan
G	Dylan Brumbaugh	6-5	309	Sr.	Akron
G	Aidan Conlon	6-3	301	Sr.	No. Illinois
T	Steven Bell	6-4	290	Sr.	Ball State
T	Tyrell Smith	6-5	315	Jr.	UMass

Second-Team Defense

DE	Tarell Basham	6-4	250	Jr.	Ohio
DE	Joe Ostman	6-3	248	Jr.	C. Michigan
DT	Treyvon Hester	6-4	300	Jr.	Toledo
DT	Orion Jones	6-2	285	Sr.	Toledo
LB	Grant DePalma	5-9	218	Sr.	W. Michigan
LB	Boomer Mays	6-0	246	Sr.	No. Illinois
LB	Jovon Johnson	6-0	215	Sr.	Ohio
CB	Cheatham Norrils	6-0	195	Sr.	Toledo
CB	Ronald Zamort	5-10	174	Sr.	W. Michigan
S	Jordan Italiano	5-10	207	Sr.	Kent State
S	Marlon Moore	5-9	195	Sr.	Northern Illinois

Second-Team Specialists

K	Andrew Haldeman	5-10	180	Sr.	W. Michigan
P	Zach Paul	6-3	216	Sr.	Akron
KR	Devin Campbell	5-11	203	Sr.	Buffalo
PR	Tommylee Lewis	5-7	159	Sr.	No. Illinois

AKRON ZIPS

National Forecast: 97
MAC East Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Terry Bowden
Record at School: 11-25 (3 years)
Career Record: 151-87-2 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: A.J. Milwee
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Amato
Akron, OH • InfoCision Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Oklahoma
12 Pittsburgh
19 Savannah State
26 at UL Lafayette

OCTOBER
3 Ohio
10 at Eastern Michigan
17 at Bowling Green
31 Central Michigan

NOVEMBER
7 at Massachusetts
14 at Miami (Ohio)
21 Buffalo
27 Kent State

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug.	28	Howard	W	41-0
Sept.	6	at Penn State	L	3-21
Sept.	20	Marshall	L	17-48
Sept.	27	at Pittsburgh	W	21-10
Oct.	4	Eastern Michigan	W	31-6
Oct.	11	Miami (Ohio)	W	29-19
Oct.	18	at Ohio	L	20-23
Oct.	25	at Ball State	L	21-35
Nov.	4	Bowling Green	L	10-27
Nov.	11	at Buffalo	L	24-55
Nov.	18	Massachusetts	W	30-6
Nov.	28	at Kent State	L	24-27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ulysses Gilbert III, LB, Ocala, FL
2. Jason Williams, DB, Hialeah, FL
3. Richie Cooper, WR, Hollywood, FL
4. Mitchell Hlay, OL, Richfield, OH
5. Ray Ray Smith, ATH, Hollywood, FL
6. Montel Jordan, OL, Deerfield Beach, FL
7. Richie Kallay, OL, Clearwater, FL
8. Chris Bivins, DB, Gainesville, FL*
9. Michael Means, WR, Cincinnati, OH*
10. Travonte Junius, LB, Akron, OH

*junior college transfer

Akron's field position margin in 2014, best in the MAC. Zips' all-or-nothing defense occasionally did the offense favors.

STAT CORNER
+4.3

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	22.6 ppg	9	101
Rushing	123.7 ypg	10	106
Passing	249.6 ypg	6	49
Total	373.3 ypg	9	88
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	23.1 ppg	1	28
Rushing	148.6 ypg	4	43
Passing	222.5 ypg	3	53
Total	371.1 ypg	2	44
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-2	-0.17	6	76

OFFENSE Senior quarterback Kyle Pohl is a two-year starter with no guarantees of earning a third year at the helm. Pohl's inconsistency was one of the reasons Akron went 5–7 in 2013 and '14. Over those two seasons, he completed 55 percent of his passes with 23 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. In 2014, Akron was last in the MAC and 118th nationally in passing efficiency. This fall, if Akron is to have its first winning record since 2005, improved play from the quarterback is a priority. If Pohl struggles, coach Terry Bowden could use athletic sophomore Tra'Von Chapman (a former Pitt signee) or 2014 backup Tommy Woodson.

The Zips have a hole to fill at running back after the departure of Jawon Chisholm, the team's leading rusher in four consecutive seasons. However, Chisholm never reached the 1,000-yard mark, and his replacements may be an upgrade. Colorado State transfer Donnell Alexander, an inside power runner, and Conor Hundley, an instinctive slasher, could provide a chain-moving 1-2 punch. Manny Morgan and Hakeem Lawrence also could contribute.

The receiving corps in recent years has been high on potential and low on productivity. The two top pass catchers are gone, and coordinator A.J. Milwee is looking for the likes of Austin Wolf, Mykel Traylor-Bennett, Imani Davis, Andrew Pratt and Fransohn Bickley to emerge as reliable and consistent threats.

Bowden and his staff have worked hard to build up the depth and quality of the line, and it paid off in 2014. Three starters from that group return, and the feeling is that Akron will be able to use more wrinkles on offense because of the line's experience.

DEFENSE Akron returns six starters and many reserves and welcomes several key transfers to a defense that was second in the MAC in yards allowed per game (371.1) and first in points allowed per game (23.1). The anchors of the defense are nose guard Cody Grice and linebacker Jatavis Brown, both of whom were first-team All-MAC in 2014. Grice, who also was used as a short-yardage fullback, had 31 tackles last season. Brown led the Zips in both tackles (99) and tackles for a loss (14.5).

The defensive front also includes Se'Von Pittman, a former Ohio State Buckeye who had 36 tackles last season. Two other transfers, tackle Rodney Coe (Iowa State) and end Jamal Marcus (Ohio State), could start.

At linebacker, the two positions opposite Brown are unsettled because of the loss of Justin March and C.J. Mizell, who were second and third in tackles, respectively. Washington State transfer Darryl Monroe is being counted on to help.

The secondary is in a state of flux with the loss of the two starting safeties and their backups. The hope is that highly touted sophomore Jerome Lane — the son of former Pittsburgh basketball star "Send it in Jerome" Lane — will continue his growth at strong safety and starting cornerback Bryce Cheek can make the transition to free safety. Miami transfer Larry Hope and returning starter DeAndre Scott, who led the team in pass breakups in 2014, are ahead of the competition at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS The Zips feature two of the best specialists in the conference in seniors Zach Paul and Robert Stein. Paul was a second-team All-MAC punter after averaging 42.5 yards per kick. Stein connected on 13-of-16 field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS The third year of the Bowden era was a major disappointment as the Zips finished with a second straight 5–7 record. Led by some key returnees and a host of talented transfers, Akron should take a step forward in 2015 and contend in the MAC East Division. Anything short of a winning record will be considered a disappointment.


Conor Hundley

"I'm not sure their QB (Kyle Pohl) was as good as they hoped last year, but it's kind of now or never for him."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	80	Andrew Pratt (Sr.)	1	Mykel Traylor-Bennett (Jr.)	
WR	82	Austin Wolf (So.)	3	Michael Means (Jr.)	
WR	12	Imani Davis (Sr.)	4	Fransohn Bickley (Jr.)	
LT	**56**	**Isaiah Williams (Sr.)**	72	Scott Boyett (Sr.)	
LG	**75**	**Dylan Brumbaugh (Sr.)**	70	Michael Casimos (Jr.)	
C	57	Stephen Ericksen (So.)	77	Andrew Bohan (Sr.)	
RG	**55**	**Tommy Brown (Sr.)**	66	Kyle Ritz (Fr.)	
RT	71	Quaison Osborne (Sr.)	62	Rodney Carroll (Jr.)	
TE	35	Newman Williams (Fr.)	87	Tyler Fitzpatrick (Jr.)	
QB	**16**	**Kyle Pohl (Sr.)**	9	Tra'Von Chapman (So.)	
RB	34	Conor Hundley (Sr.)	27	Donnell Alexander (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**90**	**Se'Von Pittman (Jr.)**	10	Richard Dorvilus (Jr.)	
DT	91	Rodney Coe (Sr.)	95	Darius Copeland (Jr.)	
NG	**36**	**Cody Grice (Sr.)**	50	Brock Boxen (Fr.)	
DE	34	Jamal Marcus (Jr.)	**96**	**Alfonso Horner (Sr.)**	
OLB	54	Dylan Evans (Sr.)	53	Travonte Junius (Fr.)	
MLB	59	John Rachal (Jr.)	35	Newman Williams (Fr.)	
OLB	**1**	**Jatavis Brown (Sr.)**	13	Darryl Monroe (Sr.)	
CB	**6**	**DeAndre Scott (Jr.)**	27	John Senter (Sr.)	
CB	2	Larry Hope (Jr.)	**21**	**Kris Givens (Sr.)**	
SS	14	Jerome Lane (So.)	4	Chris Bivins (Jr.)	
FS	29	Bryce Cheek (Sr.)	41	Zach Guiser (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Robert Stein (Sr.)	KR	12	Imani Davis (Sr.)
P	38	Zach Paul (Sr.)	PR	12	Imani Davis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kyle Pohl, 383-208-2,189-8, 9 TDs
Rushing: Conor Hundley, 104 att., 540 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Fransohn Bickley, 30 rec., 268 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Jatavis Brown, 99
Sacks: Jerome Lane, 5.0
Interceptions: Kris Givens, 2; DeAndre Scott, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Jeff Harwell

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

National Forecast: 78
MAC East Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Dino Babers
Record at School: 8-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 27-13 (3 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Mike Lynch, Sean Lewis
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Ward
Bowling Green, OH • Doyt Perry Stadium (24,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 vs. Tennessee #
12 at Maryland
19 Memphis
26 at Purdue

OCTOBER
3 at Buffalo
10 Massachusetts
17 Akron
24 at Kent State

NOVEMBER
4 Ohio
11 at Western Michigan
17 Toledo
24 at Ball State

#Nashville, TN

2014 RESULTS (8-6, 5-3)

Aug.	29	at Western Kentucky	L	31-59
Sept.	6	VMI	W	48-7
Sept.	13	Indiana	W	45-42
Sept.	20	at Wisconsin	L	17-68
Sept.	27	at Massachusetts	W	47-42
Oct.	4	Buffalo	W	36-35
Oct.	11	at Ohio	W	31-13
Oct.	18	Western Michigan	L	14-26
Nov.	4	at Akron	W	27-10
Nov.	12	Kent State	W	30-20
Nov.	19	at Toledo	L	20-27
Nov.	28	Ball State	L	24-41
Dec.	5	vs. Northern Illinois %	L	17-51
Dec.	20	vs. South Alabama #	W	33-28

#Camellia Bowl %Detroit

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Morgan, QB, Green Bay, WI
2. Antonyo Sotolongo, DB, Miami, FL
3. Shemar Moss, DE, Columbus, OH
4. Brandon Harris, ATH, East Cleveland, OH
5. Bobo Jones, DB, Xenia, OH
6. Scott Miller, WR, Barrington, IL
7. Jack Kramer, DL, Plainfield, IL
8. Nico Lautanen, DT, Mentor, OH
9. JC Bartok, OL, Columbus, OH
10. Jamari Bozeman, S, West Palm Beach, FL

BGSU averaged 18.6 seconds between plays in 2014, third-lowest in FBS. Dino Babers wasted no time hitting fifth gear in tempo.

STAT CORNER
18.6

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	30.0 ppg	5	56
Rushing	173.0 ypg	4	54
Passing	259.9 ypg	4	40
Total	432.9 ypg	5	41
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	33.5 ppg	12	106
Rushing	202.1 ypg	11	99
Passing	291.4 ypg	12	122
Total	493.6 ypg	12	115
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+10	+0.71	3	17

OFFENSE It is hard to hide the wealth on this unit, so the Falcons won't try. They have two quarterbacks with extensive starting experience. Matt Johnson, who started 13 games two years ago but suffered a season-ending injury in last year's opener, returns healthy. The backup is the MVP from last year's Camellia Bowl win, James Knapke, who also led the team to eight wins and a second straight MAC East title after Johnson's injury.

The Falcons quarterbacks have plenty of viable targets, as the top four receivers return. Roger Lewis was a first team all-conference selection a year ago when he was the first freshman in school history to reach the 1,000-yard receiving mark. Veteran Chris Gallon, who missed last season due to injury, and Baylor transfer Robbie Rhodes also join a veteran group.

Running back Travis Greene has put up almost 2,600 yards rushing and scored 26 total touchdowns over the past two seasons and accounted for a pair of scores in the Camellia Bowl victory. The key to it all on offense for the Falcons is likely their considerable strength up front. Bowling Green had the same five linemen start all 14 games a year ago, and they all return. This solid group is led by guard Alex Huettel, a two-time all-conference choice.

DEFENSE The Falcons took a significant graduation hit on this side of the ball. Seven starters are gone from last year's unit that struggled more than intermittently, allowing the opposition 33.5 points and nearly 500 yards of offense per game. This is a major area of concern, since a mediocre defense just got a whole lot younger and less experienced.

Bowling Green lacked an intimidating pass rush last season (just 28 sacks), and the top four ends are gone, along with two linebackers, both safeties and one cornerback. Zach Colvin, Taylor Royster and Mike Minns should man the interior line posts, with Bryan Baird and Bryan Thomas expected to see plenty of time at end.

James Sanford, Nate Locke and Austin Valdez have all seen time at linebacker in their careers, with Sanford the most experienced of the group. On the back end of the defense, corner Darrell Hunter had eight starts last season, while Clint Stephens intercepted four passes while seeing plenty of playing time as true freshmen in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Expect this to be a very strong area for the Falcons. Placekicker Tyler Tate is back after booting 23 field goals (in 29 attempts) last season. Punter Joseph Davidson also returns after setting records for attempts and punt yardage in 2014, when he knocked 14 punts 50 or more yards. Long snapper Greg Hohenstein adds further experience and continuity to the group.

FINAL ANALYSIS How the expectations have changed. The Falcons won at least eight games for the third straight season, claimed a second consecutive MAC East crown and won their first bowl game in a decade — but it wasn't enough to reach the team's lofty goals.

When coach Dino Babers and his fast-paced, high-powered offense arrived following the MAC championship season of 2013, visions of 50 points per game and another league title were prevalent. For 2015, Babers has the personnel to pull off that kind of explosive scoring. The Falcons have just about everyone back on an offense that should be among the best in the league. The young and inexperienced defense is suspect, however. Babers will be plugging holes with players he hopes possess the skill set to solidify the defense. If that happens, this should be a championship-caliber team that once again flirts with fulfilling those lofty expectations.


TRAVIS GREENE

"They were young last year, and with them winning their bowl game they have a lot of momentum."
- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	4	Gehrig Dieter (Jr.)	6	Chris Gallon (Sr.)
WR	**5**	**Ronnie Moore (Jr.)**	87	Jermal Hosley (Jr.)
WR	**17**	**Ryan Burbrink (Sr.)**	19	Teo Redding (Fr.)
WR	**1**	**Roger Lewis (So.)**	10	Herve Coby (Sr.)
LT	**67**	**Jacob Bennett (Jr.)**	64	Austin Labus (Fr.)
LG	68	Ryan Hunter (So.)	**72**	**Ben Steward (Jr.)**
C	**71**	**Tim McAuliffe (So.)**	77	J.J. Beggan (So.)
RG	**55**	**Alex Huettel (Sr.)**	78	Clark Clancy (So.)
RT	**53**	**Logan Dietz (Jr.)**	73	Corey Madlock (So.)
QB	11	Matt Johnson (Sr.)	**3**	**James Knapke (Jr.)**
RB	**8**	**Travis Greene (Sr.)**	28	Fred Coppet (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**43**	**Bryan Thomas (Sr.)**	99	Bryan Baird (Sr.)
DT	92	Zach Colvin (Sr.)	**63**	**Gus Schwieterman (So.)**
NT	54	Mike Minns (Jr.)	**33**	**Taylor Royster (Sr.)**
DE	61	Terrance Bush (Jr.)	94	David Konowalski (Fr.)
OLB	16	Austin Valdez (Fr.)	47	Aaron Banks (So.)
MLB	27	Nate Locke (Fr.)	39	Jalen Dingle (Fr.)
OLB	20	Trenton Greene (Sr.)	**35**	**James Sanford (Jr.)**
CB	**1**	**Darrell Hunter (Sr.)**	14	Marcus Milton (Fr.)
CB	2	Clint Stephens (So.)	26	Alfonso Mack (Jr.)
FS	36	Jack Walz III (Fr.)	38	Ben Hale (So.)
S	18	Dernard Turner (Sr.)	9	Isaiah Gourdine (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Tyler Tate (Sr.)	KR	2 Clint Stephens (So.)
P	49	Joe Davidson (So.)	PR	17 Ryan Burbrink (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: James Knapke, 483-280-3,173-12, 15 TDs
Rushing: Travis Greene, 180 att., 949 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Roger Lewis, 73 rec., 1,093 yds, 7 TDs
Tackles: James Sanford, 72
Sacks: James Sanford, 2.5, Gus Schwieterman, 2.5
Interceptions: Clint Stephens, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

BGSU Athletic Communications

BUFFALO BULLS

National Forecast: 105
MAC East Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Lance Leipold
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 109-6 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Andy Kotelnicki
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Borland
Buffalo, NY • UB Stadium (29,013)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Albany
12 at Penn State
19 at Florida Atlantic
26 Nevada

OCTOBER
3 Bowling Green
17 at Central Michigan
24 Ohio
29 at Miami (Ohio)

NOVEMBER
5 at Kent State
11 Northern Illinois
21 at Akron
27 Massachusetts

2014 RESULTS (5-6, 3-4)

Aug.	30	Duquesne	W 38-28
Sept.	6	at Army	L 39-47
Sept.	12	Baylor	L 21-63
Sept.	20	Norfolk State	W 36-7
Sept.	27	Miami (Ohio)	W 35-27
Oct.	4	at Bowling Green	L 35-36
Oct.	11	at Eastern Michigan	L 27-37
Oct.	25	Central Michigan	L 14-20
Nov.	5	at Ohio	L 14-37
Nov.	11	Akron	W 55-24
Nov.	28	at Massachusetts	W 41-21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Johnathan Hawkins, RB, Lawrenceville, GA
2. Jeremiah Dadeboe, DB, York, PA
3. Tyree Jackson, QB, North Shores, MI
4. Cameron Lewis, WR, Detroit, MI
5. Matt Seybert, TE, Traverse City, MI
6. K.J. Osborn, WR, Ypsilanti, MI
7. Brandon Stanback, S, Harrisburg, PA
8. Christian Gonzalez, DT, Newark, NJ
9. Tyler Mabry, TE, Ypsilanti, MI
10. Brandon Smiley, WR, Buffalo, NY

STAT CORNER

109

Total wins for Buffalo coach Lance Leipold in eight seasons at UW-Whitewater. UB has won 110 games in the last 31 years.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	32.3 ppg	3	41
Rushing	178.6 ypg	3	52
Passing	259.5 ypg	5	41
Total	438.2 ypg	3	38
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	31.5 ppg	9	95
Rushing	175.2 ypg	7	76
Passing	222.5 ypg	4	54
Total	397.7 ypg	6	62
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-3	-0.27	8	88

OFFENSE First-year head coach Lance Leipold's transition from Division III to the FBS will be eased by the presence of two productive seniors in quarterback Joe Licata and tailback Anthone Taylor.

Licata, a fourth-year starter who is cool in the pocket and fundamentally sound, already holds the school record for touchdown passes (60), ranks third in career completions (543) and fourth in career passing yardage (6,516).

Taylor had huge shoes to fill in replacing Branden Oliver, the school's career rushing leader. But when he received his shot as the primary back, he flourished by finishing with 1,403 yards, the second-highest mark in Buffalo history. Local product Jordan Johnson and versatile senior Devin Campbell, who will see time at slot receiver, will also be part of the running game.

There are enough experienced receivers at Licata's disposal in Ron Willoughby, Jacob Martinez and Marcus McGill, not to mention tight end Matt Weiser and newcomer Collin Lisa, who transferred in from UAB. The Bulls tied for No. 3 in the MAC in total offense and should be extremely balanced once again.

The offensive line was hit hard by graduation with the loss of veterans Trevor Sales, Andre Davis and Jake Silas, and the returning players have done plenty of shuffling. Right tackle John Kling returns, while right guard Robert Blodgett has moved to left tackle. Brandon Manosalvas has moved from center to left guard and will be replaced in the middle by redshirt freshman James O'Hagan. Senior Dillon Guy gets the nod at right guard.

DEFENSE The Bulls, who shift from a 3-3-5 to a 4-3, return only three starters on defense. The defensive line has to be mostly rebuilt, although it returns Brandon Crawford and Max Perisse, who are moving inside from end. Sophomores Demone Harris and Solomon Jackson look to fill the vacant end spots.

There are also questions at linebacker, where Jake Stockman and Lee Skinner must be replaced. Jarrett Franklin is back, while Okezie Alozie moves from safety to linebacker. The two are the team's top returning tacklers with 49 apiece.

Marqus Baker and Boise Ross are locks at cornerback. Baker missed seven games 2014 with an illness, which forced Ross to convert from wide receiver to fill in at corner. Although Baker has experience, he's starting for the first time in his career. Buffalo needs to find a pair of safeties and will miss All-MAC selection Adam Redden. Andrews Dadeboe has played extended minutes, while Ryan Williamson played in all 11 games as a true freshman. Jordan Collier, another UAB transfer, figures to be in the mix at safety.

SPECIALISTS The Bulls have to replace Patrick Clarke, who ranks second in program history in field goals. Adam Mitcheson, who redshirted as a freshman, assumes Clarke's role, while Tyler Grassman is back for his fourth season at punter. Campbell is just 80 yards shy of the school record in career kick return yardage and could see time at punt returner as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS It was a surprise to see the abrupt ending to the Jeff Quinn era, especially one season removed from the second bowl appearance in school history. Replacing Quinn with Leipold was equally unforeseen, but the former Wisconsin-Whitewater coach was without peer on the Division III level (109–6 in eight seasons). There will be an adjustment period for the defense, which has to learn a new scheme and must replace several key contributors. But the offense, led by the serene Licata, is as good as any in the MAC. The schedule is not easy, but the Bulls are certainly capable of being a factor in the MAC East Division.


ANTHONE TAYLOR

"The quarterback (Joe Licata) has a big-time arm and the running back (Anthone Taylor) is an all-conference guy."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	86	**Ron Willoughby (Sr.)**	84	Jamarl Eiland (So.)	
WR	7	Marcus McGill (Sr.)	80	Malcolm Robinson (Jr.)	
WR	88	Jacob Martinez (So.)	13	Collin Lisa (So.)	
LT	74	**Robert Blodgett (Sr.)**	72	Matt Murphy (Fr.)	
LG	61	Brandon Manosalvas (So.)	76	Andy Fidler (Fr.)	
C	77	James O'Hagan (Fr.)	61	Brandon Manosalvas (So.)	
RG	65	Dillon Guy (Sr.)	52	Todd Therrien (Sr.)	
RT	70	**John Kling (Sr.)**	75	Albert McCoy (Jr.)	
TE	89	**Matt Weiser (Sr.)**	85	Mason Schreck (Jr.)	
QB	16	**Joe Licata (Sr.)**	5	Tony Daniel (Sr.)	
RB	1	**Anthone Taylor (Sr.)**	21	Devin Campbell (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	91	Demone Harris (So.)	39	Myles Nicholas (Fr.)	
NG	66	Max Perisse (Jr.)	58	Chris Ford (So.)	
DT	55	Brandon Crawford (Jr.)	98	Christian Gonzalez (Fr.)	
DE	41	Solomon Jackson (So.)	34	Randy Anyanwu (Fr.)	
OLB	36	**Jarrett Franklin (Jr.)**	33	Kyril Threats (Sr.)	
MLB	42	Greg Lis (So.)	43	Nick Gilbo (Sr.)	
OLB	3	**Okezie Alozie (Sr.)**	38	C.J. Stancil (Jr.)	
CB	5	Marqus Baker (Sr.)	14	Brandon Williams (Fr.)	
CB	1	**Boise Ross (Jr.)**	37	Terrance Wilson (Fr.)	
SS	17	Andrews Dadeboe (So.)	8	Houston Glass (Jr.)	
FS	26	Ryan Williamson (So.)	24	Jordan Collier (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Adam Mitcheson (Fr.)	KR	21	Devin Campbell (Sr.)
P	11	Tyler Grassman (Sr.)	PR	21	Devin Campbell (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joe Licata, 345-224-2,647-11, 29 TDs
Rushing: Anthone Taylor, 282 att., 1,403 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Ron Willoughby, 50 rec., 771 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Okezie Alozie, 49; Jarrett Franklin, 49
Sacks: Three players tied with 3.0
Interceptions: *Boise Ross, 1*

*Indicates number of returning starters • ***BOLD*** *indicates returning starters*

Paul Hokanson/UBBulls.com

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

National Forecast: 119
MAC East Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Paul Haynes
Record at School: 6–17 (2 years)
Career Record: 6–17 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Don Treadwell
Defensive Coordinator: Brian George
Kent, OH • Dix Stadium (25,319)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
4	at Illinois
12	Delaware State
19	at Minnesota
26	Marshall
OCTOBER	
3	Miami (Ohio)
10	at Toledo
17	at Massachusetts
24	Bowling Green
NOVEMBER	
5	Buffalo
10	at Ohio
18	Central Michigan
27	at Akron

2014 RESULTS (2-9, 1-6)

Aug.	30	Ohio	L	14-17
Sept.	6	South Alabama	L	13-23
Sept.	13	at Ohio State	L	0-66
Sept.	27	at Virginia	L	13-45
Oct.	4	at Northern Illinois	L	14-17
Oct.	11	Massachusetts	L	17-40
Oct.	18	Army	W	39-17
Oct.	25	at Miami (Ohio)	L	3-10
Nov.	4	Toledo	L	20-30
Nov.	12	at Bowling Green	L	20-30
Nov.	28	Akron	W	27-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Juantez McRae, DB, Reistertown, MD
2. P. J. Simmons, RB, Tallahassee, FL
3. Mylik Mitchell, QB, Cleveland, OH
4. Johnny Woods, WR, Smith's Station, AL
5. Jim Jones, LB, Tallahassee, FL
6. Antwan Dixon, WR, Fort Myers, FL
7. Anthony Johnson, DE, Miami, FL*
8. Carlos Pickett, DB, Brunswick, GA
9. Chase Van Hoef, OL, Grand Haven, MI
10. Conor Brumfield, TE, Acworth, GA

*junior college transfer

Average yards per play for Kent State over the final five games of 2014; Golden Flashes averaged just 4.13 in the first seven games.

STAT CORNER

5.7

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	16.4 ppg	12	120
Rushing	81.8 ypg	13	122
Passing	233.6 ypg	9	60
Total	315.5 ypg	12	116
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	29.0 ppg	7	81
Rushing	214.0 ypg	12	107
Passing	216.3 ypg	1	45
Total	430.3 ypg	9	88
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-4	-0.36	10	94

OFFENSE The Kent State offense needs bruising 250-pound tailback Trayion Durham to return to his sophomore year form. In 2012, Durham teamed with Dri Archer (now with the Pittsburgh Steelers) to lead the Golden Flashes to the MAC East title and the school's first bowl berth since 1972. But Durham was slowed by injuries in 2013 and held to 766 yards rushing. In 2014, a foot injury kept him out of all 11 games as KSU went 2–9. A healthy Durham and Nick Holley (team-high 516 yards rushing in 2014) could form a productive duo in the Golden Flashes backfield.

A potent running attack would take the pressure off junior quarterback Colin Reardon, who has had two inconsistent seasons as the starter. In 2014, Reardon threw more interceptions (16) than touchdowns (14) and was the leader of an offense that ranked 12th in the MAC and 116th nationally in total yardage.

Reardon lost his two favorite targets in tight end Casey Pierce and receiver Chris Humphrey, but there is strength in numbers because coach Paul Haynes and his staff have recruited well at those positions. Look for strong seasons from Kris White, James Brooks, Ernest Calhoun and prized recruit Johnny Woods.

The line is bound to be improved since it was one of the youngest in the MAC last season. Seven of the 10 linemen on the two-deep from 2014 are back, and that doesn't include senior right guard Anthony Pruitt, a former regular in the rotation who missed 2014 with an injury.

DEFENSE There is good news and bad news. The good news is that the top 11 tacklers from 2014 are back, along with two starters who missed 2014. The bad news is the players on that defense were part of a group that allowed 430.3 yards per game. Still, coordinator Brian George expects major improvement throughout his defense because those players are one year older and have one year more experience.

The defense is led by what could be the best pair of safeties in the MAC. Junior free safety Nate Holley earned first-team all-conference honors in 2014 after recording 137 tackles, the most at KSU since 1996. Senior strong safety Jordan Italiano ranked second in tackles (96) and added three interceptions.

The front four will be led by tackles Nate Terhune and Chris Fairchild, who missed the 2014 season. Highly touted junior college transfer Anthony Johnson, a defensive end, will be expected to make a big contribution.

At linebacker, Matt Dellinger (third in tackles with 89) returns in the middle, and Elcee Refuge (fourth with 58) is back on the outside. Outside backer DeVante' Strickland, who had 53 tackles as a starter in 2013, missed 2014 with an injury.

SPECIALISTS First-team All-MAC punter Anthony Melchiori had a 44.3-yard average, which was first in the conference and 12th nationally. He was not as productive as a placekicker, making 10-of-18 field goals, so he may be pushed by Brad Miller.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Golden Flashes have nowhere to go but up after beating only Army and Akron in their abbreviated 11-game 2014 schedule (they had a game snowed out). Haynes had big shoes to fill after replacing Darrell Hazell in 2013, and his two-year record of 6–17 places him on the hot seat.

Improvement does seem to be a given because so many starters return, along with a large group of reserves who saw extensive playing time. The keys on offense are improvement by Reardon at quarterback and a productive Durham-Holley running combination. The defense has plenty of experience but must get tougher, especially against the run.



NATE HOLLEY

"Why didn't they win? They couldn't score. Their offense didn't hold up their end of the bargain."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	**Kris White (So.)**	18	Johnny Woods (Fr.)	
WR	20	**Ernest Calhoun (Jr.)**	11	Connor Arlia (Sr.)	
WR	12	James Brooks (Jr.)	8	Charles Chandler (Jr.)	
LT	55	**Reno Reda (Jr.)**	73	Jake Witucki (Jr.)	
LG	71	**Wayne Scott (Jr.)**	59	Connor Shinsky (Fr.)	
C	62	Nathan Puthoff (So.)	63	**Alex Nielsen (Jr.)**	
RG	66	Anthony Pruitt (Sr.)	57	Tad France (So.)	
RT	74	Brock Macaulay (So.)	70	Stefano Millin (Fr.)	
TE	13	Brice Fackler (Jr.)	84	Kyle Payton (Sr.)	
QB	10	**Colin Reardon (Jr.)**	16	Nathan Strock (So.)	
RB	34	Trayion Durham (Sr.)	4	**Nick Holley (Jr.)**	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	33	Matt Sommers (So.)	52	Clay Miller (Sr.)	
DT	69	**Nate Terhune (Sr.)**	56	Jontey Byrd (So.)	
NG	50	Chris Fairchild (Jr.)	90	**Jon Cunningham (So.)**	
DE	51	Terence Waugh (Jr.)	34	Anthony Johnson (So.)	
OLB	7	**Elcee Refuge (Jr.)**	45	Marques Moore (So.)	
MLB	32	**Matt Dellinger (Sr.)**	36	Darius Redmond (Jr.)	
OLB	19	Erik Simpson (Fr.)	29	Matt Bahr (Fr.)	
CB	12	**Najee Murray (Jr.)**	20	Marcus Elliott (So.)	
CB	21	Demetrius Monday (So.)	35	Jimmy May (Sr.)	
SS	23	**Jordan Italiano (Sr.)**	37	Nick Cuthbert (Jr.)	
FS	18	**Nate Holley (Jr.)**	27	Kevin Bourne (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Anthony Melchiori (Sr.)	KR	20	Ernest Calhoun (Jr.)
P	14	Anthony Melchiori (Sr.)	PR	12	James Brooks (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Colin Reardon, 400-228-2,466-16, 14 TDs
Rushing: Nick Holley, 125 att., 516 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Ernest Calhoun, 33 rec., 319 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Nate Holley, 137
Sacks: Nate Terhune, 3.5
Interceptions: Jordan Italiano, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Kent State Athletics

MIAMI REDHAWKS

National Forecast: 121
MAC East Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Chuck Martin
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 76-17 (7 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
George Barnett, Eric Koehler
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Pawlowski
Oxford, OH • Yager Stadium (24,286)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Bethune-Cookman
12 at Florida Atlantic
19 Nebraska

OCTOBER
1 at Cincinnati
10 at Florida State
17 Virginia Tech
24 Clemson
31 at Duke

NOVEMBER
7 Virginia
14 at North Carolina
21 Georgia Tech
27 at Pittsburgh

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

Aug.	30	Marshall	L	27-42
Sept.	6	Eastern Kentucky	L	10-17
Sept.	13	at Michigan	L	10-34
Sept.	20	at Cincinnati	L	24-31
Sept.	27	at Buffalo	L	27-35
Oct.	4	Massachusetts	W	42-41
Oct.	11	at Akron	L	19-29
Oct.	18	at Northern Illinois	L	41-51
Oct.	25	Kent State	W	10-3
Nov.	1	Western Michigan	L	10-41
Nov.	15	at Central Michigan	L	27-34
Nov.	25	Ohio	L	21-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Billy Bahl, QB, Woodstock, IL
2. Ian Leever, OL, Loveland, OH
3. Junior McMullen, LB, Oak Park, MI
4. Matt Skibinski, OL, Livonia, MI
5. James Gardner, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
6. Joshua Allen, DB, Charlotte, NC
7. Maurice Thomas, RB, Oxford, OH
8. Carter Masek, LB, East Grand Rapids, MI
9. Nate Trawick, DT, Richmond, IN
10. Quinn Calcagno, DE, Wheaton, IL

STAT CORNER

5.5

Average yards per play for Miami in 2014. The offense increased by 1.8 per play from 2013, the largest improvement in FBS.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	22.3 ppg	10	103
Rushing	97.6 ypg	12	119
Passing	277.8 ypg	2	29
Total	375.3 ypg	8	85
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	10	98
Rushing	199.9 ypg	10	95
Passing	234.3 ypg	7	79
Total	434.3 ypg	10	94
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+2	+0.17	5	51

OFFENSE When your most experienced quarterback now lines up at defensive end, that's a concern. Junior Austin Gearing threw 54 passes and added 145 rushes as Miami's starter in 2013, but he switched sides of the ball last season after being supplanted by Notre Dame transfer Andrew Hendrix, who has exhausted his eligibility. Redshirt freshman Gus Ragland possesses the same combination of running and throwing talent displayed by Hendrix on his way to being named third-team All-MAC. But senior Drew Kummer has the experience edge on Ragland; Kummer has thrown 58 passes and rushed 31 times with the RedHawks. Ragland has yet to step on the field.

The situation at running back isn't much better. Junior Spencer McInnis and sophomore Damon Washington are the only returning players with experience, and they combined for 261 yards last season. That might not be enough to hold off redshirt freshmen Kenny Young and Alonzo Smith.

Junior wide receiver Jared Murphy is Miami's top returning pass catcher, but he was being pushed by sophomore Sam Martin and junior Fred McRae IV, who also earned third-team all-conference honors as a punt returner. The offensive line also needs refurbishing after losing three starters.

DEFENSE Even with the loss to graduation of cornerback Quinten Rollins, who was named the MAC's Defensive Player of the Year in his only season on the gridiron after finishing up his basketball career, the RedHawks' defense looks strong once again.

All four starters return on the line, led by senior Bryson Albright, who led Miami with 6.0 sacks, just ahead of junior J'Terius Jones' five quarterback collars. Senior Joe Donlan, one of two returning starters at linebacker, ranked second on the team in tackles with 77. The other returning starter, senior Kent Kern, was a second-team All-MAC pick in 2013 and is itching to get back after missing the final three games of the 2014 season.

Junior Heath Harding, who led the RedHawks with 98 tackles as a safety in 2014, has moved to cornerback, joining returning starter Marshall Taylor. You could say the defensive backfield has three returning starters, as senior safety Brison Burris is back after missing all of last season with an injury. Burris started 11 of 12 games in 2012 and all 12 in 2013, but he'll have to hold off junior Buchi Okafor for the job.

SPECIALISTS Senior Kaleb Patterson is back for his fourth season as Miami's placekicker. Patterson has attempted 42 field goals in his RedHawks career and made 31, including a career-long 52-yarder last season. Senior Christian Koch waited for his turn and is back for his second season as Miami's punter. Koch averaged 40.1 yards per punt last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coach Chuck Martin, a former Notre Dame assistant, sees progress in his quest to drag Miami football away from the dregs of a school-record 21-game losing streak, including an 0–12 2013, and closer to the tradition that includes 15 MAC championships.

Miami has opened an indoor practice facility, placing it on the same level as MAC teams such as Northern Illinois, which has played in the last five league championship games.

Martin and his coaching staff spent less time in his second spring camp teaching the RedHawks how to practice and more time on what to practice. That made it easier to make decisions on position battles, allowing more time to focus on preparing for the upcoming season. This program is still a year away from being a factor in the MAC East, but there is finally some positive momentum in Oxford.



JARED MURPHY

"The difference on film from 2013 to playing them in 2014 was dramatic. Chuck (Martin) is doing a great job."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	88	**Jared Murphy (Jr.)**	18	Fred McRae (Jr.)	
WR	83	Sam Martin (So.)	10	Sam Shisso (Jr.)	
WR	6	Rokeem Williams (Jr.)	87	Chris Hudson (Fr.)	
LT	57	Zach Hovey (So.)	77	Luke Adams (Fr.)	
LG	65	**Trevan Brown (Sr.)**	76	Randy Heideman (So.)	
C	73	Brandyn Cook (Sr.)	56	Mitch Palmer (Fr.)	
RG	61	Zach Swarts (Fr.)	52	Jordan Rigg (Fr.)	
RT	72	**Collin Buchanan (Jr.)**		Ian Leever (Fr.)	
TE	82	Ryan Smith (So.)		Nate Becker (Fr.)	
QB	14	Gus Ragland (Fr.)	8	Drew Kummer (Sr.)	
RB	3	Kenny Young (Fr.)	26	Alonzo Smith (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	91	**J'Terius Jones (Jr.)**	11	Austin Gearing (Jr.)	
DT	99	**Mitchell Winters (Sr.)**	93	Deion Cineus (Fr.)	
DT	58	**Jimmy Rousher (Jr.)**	55	Ikeem Allen (So.)	
DE	95	**Bryson Albright (Sr.)**	32	Zach Smerciak (So.)	
LB	49	TJ Williams (Jr.)	59	Brad Koening (Fr.)	
LB	43	**Kent Kern (Sr.)**	48	Sam Connolly (Fr.)	
LB	46	**Joe Donlan (Sr.)**	51	Josh Dooley (Sr.)	
CB	24	**Heath Harding (Jr.)**	28	Bert Birdsall (So.)	
CB	21	**Marshall Taylor (Jr.)**	22	Matt Merrime (Fr.)	
S	35	Brison Burris (Sr.)	30	Buchi Okafor (Jr.)	
S	11	Tony Reid (So.)	8	Daryus Thompson (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Kaleb Patterson (Sr.)	KR	18	Fred McRae (Jr.)
P	39	Christian Koch (Sr.)	PR	18	Fred McRae (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Drew Kummer, 10-4-53-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Spencer McInnis, 64 att., 246 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Jared Murphy, 42 rec., 600 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Heath Harding, 98
Sacks: Bryson Albright, 6.0
Interceptions: Heath Harding, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Miami Athletics

OHIO BOBCATS

National Forecast: 98
MAC East Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Frank Solich
Record at School: 72-56 (10 years)
Career Record: 130-75 (16 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Tim Albin, Scott Isphording
Defensive Coordinator: Jimmy Burrow
Athens, OH • Peden Stadium (24,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 at Idaho
12 Marshall
19 SE Louisiana
26 at Minnesota

OCTOBER
3 at Akron
10 Miami (Ohio)
17 Western Michigan
24 at Buffalo

NOVEMBER
4 at Bowling Green
10 Kent State
17 Ball State
24 at Northern Illinois

2014 RESULTS (6-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	at Kent State	W	17-14
Sept.	6	at Kentucky	L	3-20
Sept.	13	at Marshall	L	14-44
Sept.	20	Idaho	W	36-24
Sept.	27	Eastern Illinois	W	34-19
Oct.	4	at Central Michigan	L	10-28
Oct.	11	Bowling Green	L	13-31
Oct.	18	Akron	W	23-20
Oct.	25	at Western Michigan	L	21-42
Nov.	5	Buffalo	W	37-14
Nov.	18	Northern Illinois	L	14-21
Nov.	25	at Miami (Ohio)	W	24-21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deontai Williams, S, Jacksonville, FL
2. Jeff Christian, CB, Cincinnati, OH
3. Sam McKnight, DT, Glenville, OH
4. Elijah Ball, WR, Cincinnati, OH
5. Clayton Glasco, LB, Pickerington, OH
6. London Cloud, LB, Bedford, OH
7. Mayne Williams, S, Cincinnati, OH
8. Maxwell Howell, CB, West Palm Beach, FL
9. Javon Hagan, S, Jacksonville, FL
10. Louie Zervos, PK, Tarpon Springs, FL

Times in the last six years that the Ohio-Bowling Green winner has won the MAC East. Can OU rebound and threaten to make it five of seven?

STAT CORNER
4

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	20.5 ppg	11	111
Rushing	164.1 ypg	6	59
Passing	206.2 ypg	11	81
Total	370.3 ypg	10	91
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	2	40
Rushing	132.9 ypg	3	25
Passing	261.4 ypg	10	104
Total	394.3 ypg	5	59
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-4	-0.33	9	92

OFFENSE The Bobcats should be much more proficient this fall as nearly every piece of their 2014 offense returns.

Senior Derrius Vick should be the starting quarterback. Because of injury, Vick split last season with junior JD Sprague. Vick had the better numbers and should get the official nod in fall camp. Both are aggressive runners, critical in Ohio's one-back offense.

Up front, Ohio returns all five starters from last season and its top seven linemen overall. A strong left side — with seniors in left tackle Mike McQueen, left guard Mike Lucas and center Lucas Powell — will serve as an anchor. Ohio at times played four true freshmen last season. One, Jake Pruehs, started every game at right guard but is being groomed to be the center of the future.

Running back A.J. Ouellette had the second-highest rushing total for a freshman in Ohio history last season (785 yards) and begins this fall as the clear-cut No. 1 option. He averaged 126 yards in his final three games, highlighted by a 155-yard, two-touchdown performance in a win against Buffalo. Senior Daz Patterson and redshirt freshman Papi White are change-of-pace backs who can double in the slot. Sophomore Dorian Brown and redshirt freshman Maleek Irons will push Ouellette in camp, with Irons a threat to get red-zone touches.

The one spot where Ohio needs more development is at wide receiver. None of the Bobcats' returning receivers posted big numbers, but juniors Sebastian Smith and Jordan Reid have the size and experience to emerge.

DEFENSE If Ohio can find suitable replacements in a couple of key areas, the Bobcats could have a nasty defense. The biggest question marks are in the middle, where defensive tackles Cam McLeod and Antwan Crutcher held up well at the point of attack last year. Seniors Brandon Purdum and Watson Tautuiaki and junior Casey Sayles — who will play at end — will have to fill that void. On the edge, junior Tarell Basham was underwhelming last season as he saw a steady diet of double-teams, but he remains one of the best pass rushers in the MAC.

Ohio has solid options at linebacker, cornerback and safety. Senior Jovon Johnson and junior Blair Brown are two speedy playmakers at outside linebacker, and Quentin Poling was sensational last year as a redshirt freshman in the middle.

Ohio returns three corners who started games last fall. Senior Ian Wells might be the Bobcats' best pro prospect on one side, while Brett Layton eventually supplanted Devin Bass on the other side last season. They don't have that kind of depth at safety, however. Senior Devin Jones returns, but injuries — three potential starters at safety all missed spring camp — leave the position a bit thin. Sophomore Kylan Nelson, a former corner, has moved to free safety, and three of Ohio's 2015 recruits are expected to get a shot at playing time.

SPECIALISTS Josiah Yazdani is back for his third season at kicker and has developed into a dependable weapon. Last season, he won two games with field goals on the last play of regulation. There's also no question that Mitch Bonnstetter will be the punter again. Bonnstetter's average was pedestrian, but his quick release helped after punt blocks were a major issue in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off a 6–6 season in which the Bobcats were blown out several times, Ohio should rebound nicely in 2015. With experienced depth across the board, an aggressive, quick defense, and an emerging star in Ouellette, the Bobcats won't be learning on the fly like they were in 2014. Ohio will be a factor in the MAC East, and a bump in wins and a bowl berth should be the expectation.


JOVON JOHNSON

"They have a good young defensive line that really gave us fits last year. They're going to be stout."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**6**	**Sebastian Smith (Jr.)**	19	Herman Brunis (So.)
WR	12	Jordan Reid (Jr.)	18	Robbie Walker (So.)
WR	**85**	**Brendan Cope (So.)**	84	Kawmae Sawyer (Sr.)
LT	**75**	**Mike McQueen (Sr.)**	65	Joe Lowery (So.)
LG	**67**	**Mike Lucas (Sr.)**	71	Josh Cooper (Jr.)
C	**54**	**Lucas Powell (Sr.)**	**51**	**Jake Pruehs (So.)**
RG	63	Joe Anderson (So.)	78	Nick Gibbons (Jr.)
RT	**79**	**Troy Watson (Jr.)**	74	Jared McCray (So.)
TE	**82**	**Troy Mangen (Jr.)**	86	Mason Morgan (So.)
QB	**15**	**Derrius Vick (Sr.)**	3	JD Sprague (Jr.)
RB	45	A.J. Ouellette (So.)	7	Daz Patterson (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**93**	**Tarell Basham (Jr.)**	99	Kurt Laseak (Jr.)
DT	95	Brandon Purdum (Sr.)	54	Tony Porter (So.)
DT	34	Watson Tautuiaki (Sr.)	92	Cleon Aloese (So.)
DE	**44**	**Casey Sayles (Jr.)**	90	Trent Smart (So.)
LB	**51**	**Jovon Johnson (Sr.)**	52	Marcus Collins (Sr.)
LB	**32**	**Quentin Poling (So.)**	40	Cody Grilliot (So.)
LB	**33**	**Blair Brown (Jr.)**	38	Chad Moore (So.)
CB	**41**	**Ian Wells (Sr.)**	**37**	**Devin Bass (Sr.)**
CB	22	Brett Layton (Sr.)	2	Curtis Brunson (So.)
S	13	Devin Jones (Sr.)	21	Kylan Nelson (So.)
S	27	Aaron Macer (Sr.)	24	Toran Davis (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Josiah Yazdani (Sr.)	**KR**	7	Daz Patterson (Sr.)
P	23	Mitch Bonnstetter (Sr.)	**PR**	7	Daz Patterson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: JD Sprague, 202-98-1,236-5, 3 TDs
Rushing: A.J. Ouellette, 160 att., 785 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Sebastian Smith, 31 rec., 385 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Quentin Poling, 89
Sacks: Quentin Poling, 5.0
Interceptions: Quentin Poling, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Ohio University Athletics

UMASS MINUTEMEN

National Forecast: 92
MAC East Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Mark Whipple
Record at School: 52-35 (7 years)
Career Record: 124-68 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Whipple
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Masella
Amherst, MA • Gillette Stadium (68,756)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
12	at Colorado
19	Temple
26	at Notre Dame
OCTOBER	
3	FIU
10	at Bowling Green
17	Kent State
24	Toledo
31	at Ball State
NOVEMBER	
7	Akron
14	at Eastern Michigan
21	Miami (Ohio)
27	at Buffalo

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 3-5)

Aug.	30	vs. Boston College #	L	7-30
Sept.	6	vs. Colorado #	L	38-41
Sept.	13	at Vanderbilt	L	31-34
Sept.	20	at Penn State	L	7-48
Sept.	27	Bowling Green	L	42-47
Oct.	4	at Miami (Ohio)	L	41-42
Oct.	11	at Kent State	W	40-17
Oct.	18	vs. Eastern Michigan #	W	36-14
Oct.	25	at Toledo	L	35-42
Nov.	12	Ball State	W	24-10
Nov.	18	at Akron	L	6-30
Nov.	28	Buffalo	L	21-41

#Foxboro

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Sam Franklin, WR, Inverness, FL
2. Reche Thomas, OG, Vero Beach, FL
3. Andy Isabella, ATH, Cleveland, OH
4. Sekai Lindsay, RB, Melbourne, FL
5. Michael Yerardi, OT, Cohasset, MA
6. Marquis Young, RB, Fairport, NY
7. Jack Driscoll, OT, Madison, CT
8. Marshall Robinson, DT, Mars, PA
9. Mario Patton, DT, University Heights, OH
10. Brandon Mangram, CB, Buford, GA

STAT CORNER

Improvement in UMass' per-play averages from 2013 (4.29) to 2014 (5.75). A new coach and QB made an immediate impact.

+1.46

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	27.3 ppg	7	75
Rushing	109.3 ypg	11	112
Passing	311.8 ypg	1	11
Total	421.1 ypg	6	48
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	33.0 ppg	11	103
Rushing	191.8 ypg	9	90
Passing	255.8 ypg	9	99
Total	447.5 ypg	11	101
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-6	-0.50	12	103

OFFENSE Before coach Mark Whipple and quarterback Blake Frohnapfel arrived, the Minutemen had the 12th-ranked passing attack in the MAC in 2013. The arrival of the coach-quarterback tandem elevated the Minutemen to the No. 1 passing offense in the conference. Frohnapfel, a transfer from Marshall, led the league with 334.5 passing yards per game. He threw 23 touchdowns with 10 interceptions before missing the last two games with a broken leg.

Frohnapfel is healthy again for his senior season and will lead an offense that loses tight end Jean Sifrin but not much else. Rodney Mills moves from H-back, where he was a reliable receiving threat, to take over for Sifrin at tight end. Senior wideout Tajae Sharpe, who caught 85 passes for 1,281 yards and seven touchdowns, figures to be one of the MAC's top receivers again.

Running back is the biggest offensive question for the Minutemen. They return four backs who started at least one game last year, but nobody could stay healthy or consistent enough to hold onto the job. Shadrach Abrokwah, who worked his way from walk-on freshman in 2013 to starter a year ago, will likely get first crack at the job. He rushed for 578 yards on 122 carries in eight games. Jamal Wilson, who was UMass' No. 1 back before tearing up his knee in September, will certainly be in the mix as well.

DEFENSE UMass returns nine of 11 starters from a unit whose statistics were slightly tainted by the amount of time it spent on the field.

Jovan Santos-Knox, who was second in the MAC with 11.9 tackles per game last year, takes over middle linebacker responsibilities from Stanley Andre, who graduated. The return of Shane Huber, who missed all of 2014 with a knee injury, should help defray the impact of Andre's departure at inside linebacker.

UMass struggled to get enough pressure on opposing quarterbacks last year. It's hoped that outside linebackers Kassan Messiah and Trey Seals can add to last season's 5.5 combined sacks.

All-conference cornerback Randall Jette leads a secondary that needs to cut down on big plays allowed. Trey Dudley-Giles, who moved between safety and corner last season, should be at corner full time, while UAB transfer Kelton Brackett will likely get a chance to make an immediate impact.

The Minutemen's inexperience and smallish stature on the defensive line was exposed at times last year when they played against bigger, more veteran offensive lines. They'll get bigger with 307-pound Robert Kitching taking over at nose tackle. UMass is counting on junior Peter Angeh and sophomore Sha-Ki Holines to improve with a year of added experience under their belts.

SPECIALISTS UMass tried three placekickers over the course of 2014, and none of them earned any trust. True freshman Michael Caggiano, a high school record-setter in New Jersey, will get every chance to win the job. Logan Laurent takes over at punter hoping to improve on the Minutemen's struggles there. UMass was 12th in the MAC in punting average (37.1).

FINAL ANALYSIS UMass won just one game in each of its first two FBS seasons. Last year it jumped up to three wins and nearly had more as a play or two might have changed the results of several games. With most of last year's team returning, the Minutemen have a chance to take a significant step forward. It's a critical year for UMass, which is leaving the MAC after the season for an undetermined stretch as an Independent. It's hoped that a strong year capped by UMass' first bowl appearance since 1972 might pique the interest of a conference willing to offer permanent membership.


TAJAE SHARPE

"The quarterback (Blake Frohnapfel) was awesome last year. He's big in the pocket, and he can really throw it."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	10	Marken Michel (Sr.)	16	Elgin Long (Sr.)	
WR	1	**Tajae Sharpe (Sr.)**		Lamarriel Taylor (Fr.)	
WR	80	Jalen Williams (Sr.)	19	Shakur Nesmith (So.)	
LT	77	**Tyrell Smith (Jr.)**	76	Tyshon Henderson (Jr.)	
LG	73	**Fabian Hoeller (Jr.)**	74	Lukas Kolter (So.)	
C	78	**Matt Sparks (Sr.)**	55	**Josh Bruns (Sr.)**	
RG	71	**Michael Boland (Jr.)**	55	Josh Bruns (Sr.)	
RT	68	**Elijah Wilkinson (Jr.)**	70	Ryan Johnson (Sr.)	
TE	33	**Rodney Mills (Sr.)**	85	Brandon Howard (Sr.)	
QB	7	**Blake Frohnapfel (Sr.)**	2	Ross Comis (Fr.)	
RB	22	Shadrach Abrokwah (Jr.)	6	Jamal Wilson (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DE	5	**Peter Angeh (Jr.)**	60	Enock Asante (Jr.)	
DT	95	**Sha-Ki Holines (So.)**	91	Chris Carter (So.)	
NT	92	Robert Kitching (Sr.)	79	Jake Largay (So.)	
OLB	3	**Kassan Messiah (Sr.)**	90	Adam Richard (Jr.)	
ILB	17	**Jovan Santos-Knox (Sr.)**	42	John Robinson-Woodgett (Jr.)	
ILB	8	Shane Huber (So.)	34	Steve Casali (So.)	
OLB	54	**Trey Seals (Sr.)**	44	Peter Ngobidi (Jr.)	
CB	4	**Randall Jette (Sr.)**	28	**Jackson Porter (So.)**	
CB	9	**Trey Dudley-Giles (Sr.)**		Kelton Brackett (Sr.)	
SS	25	**Joe Colton (Sr.)**	29	Jaurice Jones (Sr.)	
FS	21	Khary Bailey-Smith (Sr.)	24	Charan Singh (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Michael Caggiano (Fr.)	KR	21	Khary Bailey-Smith (Sr.)
P	99	Logan Laurent (So.)	PR	9	Trey Dudley-Giles (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Frohnapfel, 437-241-3,345-10, 23 TDs
Rushing: Shadrach Abrokwah, 122 att., 578 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Tajae Sharpe, 85 rec., 1,281 yds, 7 TDs
Tackles: Jovan Santos-Knox, 143
Sacks: Kassan Messiah, 3
Interceptions: Randall Jette, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Thom Kendall Photography/UMass Athletics

BALL STATE CARDINALS

National Forecast: 94
MAC West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Pete Lembo
Record at School: 30-20 (4 years)
Career Record: 109-56 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joey Lynch
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Kelly
Muncie, IN • Scheumann Stadium (22,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	VMI	
12	at Texas A&M	
19	at Eastern Michigan	
26	at Northwestern	
OCTOBER		
3	Toledo	
10	at Northern Illinois	
17	Georgia State	
24	Central Michigan	
31	Massachusetts	
NOVEMBER		
5	at Western Michigan	
17	at Ohio	
24	Bowling Green	

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Colgate	W	30-10
Sept.	6	at Iowa	L	13-17
Sept.	13	Indiana State	L	20-27
Sept.	20	at Toledo	L	23-34
Oct.	4	at Army	L	24-33
Oct.	11	Western Michigan	L	38-42
Oct.	18	at Central Michigan	W	32-29
Oct.	25	Akron	W	35-21
Nov.	5	Northern Illinois	L	21-35
Nov.	12	at Massachusetts	L	10-24
Nov.	22	Eastern Michigan	W	45-30
Nov.	28	at Bowling Green	W	41-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Riley Neal, QB, Yorktown, IN
2. James Gilbert, RB, Indianapolis, IN
3. Kevin Thurmon, DT, South Holland, IL
4. Abdallah Jaffal, LB, Dearborn, MI
5. Armani McNulty, CB, Bolingbrook, IL
6. Morgan Hagee, K, Plainfield, IN
7. Romero Wade, S, Altamonte Springs, FL
8. Anthony Sheko, DB, Harvey, IL
9. Grant Williamson, OL, Rolling Prairie, IN
10. Clayton Cook, WR, North Webster, IN

Completion rate for BSU quarterbacks in 2014. From 2011-13, predecessor Keith Wenning's rate never dropped below .639

STAT CORNER
.567

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	27.7 ppg	6	71
Rushing	153.4 ypg	8	76
Passing	215.8 ypg	10	78
Total	369.3 ypg	11	92
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	6	67
Rushing	191.1 ypg	8	88
Passing	237.8 ypg	8	82
Total	428.8 ypg	8	86
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+9	+0.75	2	16

OFFENSE For the second year in a row, Ball State must adjust after losing one of its all-time great skill-position players. While the Cardinals struggled last season to find a successor for quarterback Keith Wenning, they're in a better position this fall to handle the graduation of tailback Jahwan Edwards (4,558 career rushing yards, 51 TDs).

Coach Pete Lembo believes the tag team of bulked-up junior Teddy Williamson, scatback sophomore Darian Green and prized freshman James Gilbert will handle the load, even though they've combined for 328 yards and one touchdown to date. "We've got a veteran offensive line and tight ends," Lembo says. "We expect our running backs to step in and be productive."

Not only do the Cardinals welcome back all of their starting linemen and top three tight ends, they also retain the two quarterbacks who split last season and all of their wide receivers. Sophomore Jack Milas began last season as junior Ozzie Mann's backup, but the coaches decided to make a change at quarterback after Ball State's 1–4 start. Milas jumped in and threw for 326 yards and four scores in his first start. But he endured some growing pains, as well as literal pain when he broke his wrist in Week 11. Mann led the Cards to a season-ending win at Bowling Green, but Milas keeps the starting job. He has two All-MAC receivers in Jordan Williams (second team) and KeVonn Mabon (third team), but don't be surprised if sophomores Corey Lacanaria and Jordan Hogue produce just as much.

Center Jacob Richard, a third-team all-league pick the last two seasons, spearheads a line that boasts 101 career starts.

DEFENSE During league play last season, Ball State's defense ranked among the MAC's bottom four in all the major categories. While the Cardinals dealt with some extenuating circumstances — free safety Dae'Shaun Hurley tore his ACL in Week 1, third-team All-MAC cornerback Eric Patterson went out for the year in Week 9 — it's fair to say injuries weren't the sole cause of their relative ineffectiveness.

"It's still a work in progress," Lembo says. "We started off pretty solid. Once the injuries started piling up, it really took its toll on us. A lot of guys were thrown in ahead of their time."

Ball State welcomes back seven starters, including all but one member of the front seven. The Cardinals managed just 16 sacks last year, so they're looking for more from senior defensive tackle Darnell Smith (4.0 sacks) and senior rush end Michael Ayers (2.0 sacks).

Senior weak-side linebacker Ben Ingle was a second-team all-league pick in 2013 but produced 29 fewer tackles last fall and received no honors. He and junior middle linebacker Zack Ryan have the capability to deliver more. Hurley's solid rehab suggests he'll be ready at free safety, while sophomore Dedrick Cromartie, who stepped up after the injuries, shifts to strong safety.

"The key here is to build more depth and more cohesiveness," Lembo says.

SPECIALISTS MAC Special Teams Player of the Year Scott Secor has graduated, leaving true freshman Morgan Hagee and junior walk-on Alex Egan battling to be the kicker. Junior punter Kyle Schmidt posted a 41.5-yard average in his first two years.

FINAL ANALYSIS Blessed with 17 returning starters from a group that won four of its final six games, Ball State ought to be able to shrug off last year's step back and be a factor in the tough MAC West. The key is how Milas grows into the starting quarterback role. "I'm not going to say he has arrived by any means," Lembo says, "but he's more comfortable out there."


KEVONN MABON

"I don't think it's that they fell off the path. They ended the season strong and are on track to be great again."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	8	**Jordan Williams (Jr.)**	**16**	**KeVonn Mabon (Sr.)**	
WR	87	Corey Lacanaria (So.)	10	Chris Shillings (Sr.)	
WR	81	Jordan Hogue (So.)	21	Cywettnie Brown (Sr.)	
OT	**78**	**Drake Miller (Jr.)**	69	Ian Anderson (Sr.)	
OG	**68**	**Jeremiah Harvey (Sr.)**	53	Malik King (Fr.)	
C	**62**	**Jacob Richard (Sr.)**	70	Alex Joss (Fr.)	
SG	**65**	**Jalen Schlachter (Sr.)**	75	Vinnie Palazeti (So.)	
ST	**66**	**Steven Bell (Jr.)**	67	Nic Plavchak (Sr.)	
TE	**40**	**Dylan Curry (Sr.)**	**85**	**Sam Brunner (Jr.)**	
QB	**14**	**Jack Milas (So.)**	15	Ozzie Mann (Jr.)	
RB	41	Darian Green (So.)	23	Teddy Williamson (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

RE	**9**	**Michael Ayers (Sr.)**	98	Anthony Winbush (So.)
DT	**95**	**Darnell Smith (Sr.)**	93	Kevin Willis (So.)
NT	**35**	**Keenan Noel (Sr.)**	92	Julian Jackson (Sr.)
DE	94	Osa Igbinosun (Sr.)	57	Joshua Posley (Jr.)
SLB	**37**	**Aaron Taylor (Jr.)**	26	Avery Bailey (Sr.)
MLB	**2**	**Zack Ryan (Jr.)**	56	Sean Wiggins (Jr.)
WLB	**19**	**Ben Ingle (Sr.)**	42	Julian Boyd (Sr.)
CB	**33**	**Tyree Holder (Jr.)**	13	David Moore (So.)
CB	32	Roy Denson (Fr.)	20	Darius Conaway (Jr.)
FS	6	Dae'Shaun Hurley (Jr.)	21	Martez Hester (Jr.)
SS	43	Dedrick Cromartie (So.)	45	Lamont McPhatter (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Morgan Hagee (Fr.)	**KR**	87	Corey Lacanaria (So.)
P	12	Kyle Schmidt (Jr.)	**PR**	80	Aaron Hepp (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jack Milas, 209-115-1,302-5, 9 TDs
Rushing: Horactio Banks, 75 att., 353 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: KeVonn Mabon, 59 rec., 717 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Zack Ryan, 91
Sacks: Darnell Smith, 4.0
Interceptions: Dedrick Cromartie, 2; Tyree Holder, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

National Forecast: 111
MAC West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: John Bonamego
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Morris Watts
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Colby
Mount Pleasant, MI
Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Oklahoma State
12 Monmouth
19 at Syracuse
26 at Michigan State

OCTOBER
3 Northern Illinois
10 at Western Michigan
17 Buffalo
24 at Ball State
31 at Akron

NOVEMBER
10 Toledo
18 at Kent State
27 Eastern Michigan

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug.	28	Chattanooga	W	20-16
Sept.	6	at Purdue	W	38-17
Sept.	13	Syracuse	L	3-40
Sept.	20	at Kansas	L	10-24
Sept.	27	at Toledo	L	28-42
Oct.	4	Ohio	W	28-10
Oct.	11	at Northern Illinois	W	34-17
Oct.	18	Ball State	L	29-32
Oct.	25	at Buffalo	W	20-14
Nov.	1	at Eastern Michigan	W	38-7
Nov.	15	Miami (Ohio)	W	34-27
Nov.	22	Western Michigan	L	20-32
Dec.	24	vs. Western Kentucky #	L	48-49

#Bahamas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brandon Childress, WR, Baldwin, MI
2. Jake Johnson, QB, DeWitt, MI
3. Derek Smith, OL, Grand Rapids, MI
4. Shahid Bellamy, DT, Detroit, MI
5. Jamil Sabbagh, WR, Dearborn, MI
6. Romello Ross, RB, Detroit, MI
7. Michael Danna, DE, Dert, MI
8. Michael Oliver, LB, Detroit, MI
9. Damon Terry, WR, Lansing, MI
10. Austin Ervin, TE, St. Johns, MI

STAT CORNER

3.17

Yards per rush allowed by the Central Michigan defense against MAC opponents, the best in the league by a wide margin.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	26.9 ppg	8	79
Rushing	155.2 ypg	7	74
Passing	242.8 ypg	7	52
Total	398.1 ypg	7	67
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	25.2 ppg	4	45
Rushing	122.9 ypg	2	21
Passing	232.5 ypg	6	73
Total	355.5 ypg	1	29
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-5	-0.38	11	95

OFFENSE Junior Cooper Rush, last seen throwing an FBS bowl-record seven touchdown passes in the Bahamas Bowl, is back at the helm for his third season as Central Michigan's starting quarterback. He is poised for a stellar season as long as he gets enough help from the talent around him.

Lost to graduation is four-year star wide receiver Titus Davis, so figuring out who can replace his production on the outside is a must. Candidates include senior Jesse Kroll (36 catches, 582 yards, four TDs) and junior Anthony Rice (30 catches, 321 yards), as they are the returnees with the most on-field experience and have familiarity with Rush. But watch out for a trio of sophomores in Mark Chapman, Corey Willis and Eric Cooper; all three are athletic wide receivers with big-play potential.

The running back spot will feature a battle among senior Saylor Lavallii, junior Martez Walker and sophomore Devon Spalding. If a clear-cut starter emerges, it might be Spalding as he had a couple impressive efforts toward the end of 2014 and finished the campaign with 371 rushing yards on 73 attempts plus four TDs.

Central Michigan must replace starters at left guard and right tackle, but the Chippewas have the benefit of senior left tackle Ramadan Ahmeti and senior center Nick Beamish entering their third seasons as starters.

DEFENSE Central Michigan used a 4-2-5 defensive scheme the past three years but will return to a 4-3-4 base under new coordinator Greg Colby. After the Chippewas finished first in the MAC in total defense a year ago (355.5 yards per game), there will be some turnover in personnel, but there's also a core of returning starters who should allow for a fairly seamless transition with Colby in charge.

The Chippewas should be strong on the defensive line, which will be anchored on the outside by senior end Blake Serpa (four sacks last year) and junior Joe Ostman. That duo combined for 22.5 tackles for a loss.

A big question mark for CMU will be at the linebacker spots as senior Tim Hamilton (37 tackles) takes over as the leader of that group. There is inexperience aplenty when figuring out who is going to fill the other two starting spots.

Three seniors return in the secondary, with Central Michigan being particularly steady at safety. Senior Kavon Frazier and junior Tony Annese both have a nose for the football and a lot of games under their belts.

SPECIALISTS Brian Eavey (8-of-9 field goals) resumes his duties after taking over for the injured Ron Coluzzi in Week 2 of the 2014 campaign. Although Coluzzi returned two weeks later, he stuck with only punting (37.6-yard average) after handling both prior to his injury. But if Eavey falters in the kicking game, the Chippewas can feel confident in having the strong-legged Coluzzi as a backup plan. Redshirt freshman Cooper Mojsiejenko, the son of a former NFL punter, could also challenge for punting duties. Amari Coleman, Willis and Chapman are candidates to be used in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Following five seasons of mostly mediocre results under previous coach Dan Enos, the slate is clean for John Bonamego to put his stamp on the job for years to come. The biggest key will be finding enough production at wide receiver to give the very talented Rush a chance to put up the big numbers of which he is capable. With some proven and promising talent on board, Central Michigan has a chance to surprise people. But a middle-of-the-pack finish in the MAC West Division is most likely.



COOPER RUSH

"The biggest X-factor is the new coaching staff. I actually think that's a good thing for them overall."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	88	**Jesse Kroll (Sr.)**	82	Corey Willis (So.)
WR	3	Mark Chapman (So.)	80	Anthony Rice (Jr.)
LT	77	**Ramadan Ahmeti (Sr.)**	76	Jack Ford (So.)
LG	79	Austin Doan (So.)	70	Shakir Carr (Fr.)
C	54	**Nick Beamish (Sr.)**	67	J.P. Quinn (So.)
RG	75	**Kenny Rogers (Sr.)**	63	Connor Collins (Jr.)
RT	74	Derek Edwards (So.)	73	Brandon Keen (Fr.)
TE	89	Ben McCord (Sr.)	86	Zach Crouch (So.)
QB	10	**Cooper Rush (Jr.)**	13	Ryan Lamb (Jr.)
FB	40	Joe Bacci (Jr.)	35	Trevor Thomas (So.)
RB	25	Devon Spalding (So.)	27	Martez Walker (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	2	**Blake Serpa (Sr.)**	56	Louis Palmer (Sr.)
DT	52	**Jabari Dean (Jr.)**	95	Shafer Johnson (Sr.)
DT	98	Kelby Latta (Jr.)	97	Kevin D'Arcy (Jr.)
DE	45	**Joe Ostman (Jr.)**	90	Chris Kantzavelos (So.)
LB	42	Nathan Ricketts (Jr.)	39	Jadon Cook (Sr.)
LB	43	Tim Hamilton (Sr.)	31	Malik Fountain (Fr.)
LB	32	Jeff Perry (So.)		Michael Oliver (Fr.)
CB	4	**Brandon Greer (Sr.)**	16	Stefon Armstead (Sr.)
CB	7	Amari Coleman (So.)	6	Da'Quaun Jamison (Fr.)
S	5	Kavon Frazier (Sr.)	14	Josh Cox (So.)
S	18	**Tony Annese (Jr.)**	33	Tyree Waller (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Brian Eavey (Jr.)	KR	82	Corey Willis (So.)
P	17	Ron Coluzzi (Jr.)	PR	7	Amari Coleman (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cooper Rush, 382-243-3,157-13, 27 TDs
Rushing: Devon Spalding, 73 att., 371 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Jesse Kroll, 36 rec., 582 yds, 4 TDs
Tackles: Tony Annese, 74
Sacks: Blake Serpa, 4.0
Interceptions: Tony Annese, 3; Brandon Greer, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Central Michigan Athletics

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

National Forecast: 127
MAC West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Chris Creighton
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 142-56 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kalen DeBoer
Defensive Coordinator: Brad McCaslin
Ypsilanti, MI • Rynearson Stadium (30,200)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Old Dominion	
12	at Wyoming	
19	Ball State	
26	Army	
OCTOBER		
3	at LSU	
10	Akron	
17	at Toledo	
24	at Northern Illinois	
29	Western Michigan	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Miami (Ohio)	
14	Massachusetts	
27	at Central Michigan	

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug.	30	Morgan State	W	31-28
Sept.	6	at Florida	L	0-65
Sept.	13	at Old Dominion	L	3-17
Sept.	20	at Michigan State	L	14-73
Oct.	4	at Akron	L	6-31
Oct.	11	Buffalo	W	37-27
Oct.	18	vs. Massachusetts #	L	14-36
Oct.	25	Northern Illinois	L	17-28
Nov.	1	Central Michigan	L	7-38
Nov.	15	at Western Michigan	L	7-51
Nov.	22	at Ball State	L	30-45
Nov.	28	Toledo	L	16-52

#Foxboro, MA

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Breck Turner, RB, Norwalk, OH
2. Kezio Snelling, WR, Lutz, FL
3. Nick Dillon, DT, Lincolnshire, IL
4. Kwanii Figueroa, DT, Fair Lawn, NJ
5. Brody Hoying, S, Coldwater, OH
6. Isaac Holder, WR, Tampa, FL
7. James Pensyl, QB, Land O'Lakes, FL
8. Braylin Collins, WR, Duncan, SC
9. Ikie Calderon, S, Neptune, NJ*
10. Rob Pavletich, OL, Necedah, WI

*junior college transfer

Average increase in wins for Chris Creighton teams between Year 1 and Year 2 at Wabash (8–2 to 12–1) and Drake (6–5 to 8–3).

STAT CORNER

+3.0

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	15.2 ppg	13	123
Rushing	137.8 ypg	9	96
Passing	151.8 ypg	13	115
Total	289.6 ypg	13	121
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	40.9 ppg	13	122
Rushing	223.9 ypg	13	113
Passing	274.8 ypg	11	116
Total	498.8 ypg	13	118
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-18	-1.50	13	124

OFFENSE Reginald Bell breathed some life into EMU's offense when he settled into the starting role at quarterback midway through the 2014 season. The dual-threat signal caller put up more than 300 total yards of offense in a 37–27 win over Buffalo — highlighted by a pair of 70-yard touchdown runs — and threw for 409 yards in a 45–30 loss to Ball State late in the season. Bell, a former state champion in track out of California, has the chance to be a dynamic playmaker as a sophomore if the offense can develop around him.

Eastern Michigan needs more production out of its undersized receiving corps. The Eagles' 2015 recruiting class includes five talented wide receivers, but they might not be ready to jump straight into the lineup. Senior Dustin Creel has the potential to turn into a go-to target. He had 46 catches and 593 yards as a sophomore in 2013 but was slowed by a knee injury last fall.

The other challenge for the Eagles offense will be replacing three starters — Campbell Allison, Lincoln Hansen and Robert McFadden — on the offensive line. They are building around returning starter Andrew Wylie, who will step in for Hansen at right tackle.

DEFENSE There is no way to sugarcoat just how poorly the Eastern Michigan defense performed last season. The Eagles allowed 40.9 points and 498.8 yards per game and forced only 12 turnovers. All three figures ranked among the 10 worst in the nation.

The players, who were learning their third defensive system in three years, looked lost at times. A second year with the same defense — plus the return of seven starters — should provide EMU with the building blocks for turning the unit around.

The Eagles have strong depth at linebacker, where leading tackler Great Ibe is part of a group of returning starters that also includes Hunter Matt and Anthony Zappone. Ike Spearman, who missed all last season with a leg injury, was given a medical redshirt and will be back in the mix as well.

Eastern Michigan's most talented player on either side of the ball is defensive lineman Pat O'Connor, who had 64 tackles, 7.5 sacks and two forced fumbles last season. He can line up on the inside or outside and is someone for whom offenses need to account. But he needs some help.

The secondary has a lot of moving pieces and is still an area of concern. Safety Jason Beck and cornerback DaQuan Pace are the returning starters in the group. Beck started as a true freshman last season and continues to make strides. Junior college transfer Ikie Calderon brought a lot of energy in the spring at safety.

SPECIALISTS Tyler Allen rewrote EMU's record books as the team's primary kickoff returner the past two seasons. Replacing him will not be easy. Placekicker Dylan Mulder returns after a solid season in which he hit 8-of-12 attempts, including three from beyond 40 yards. The Eagles were poor covering both kickoffs and punts last season, areas that need to improve going forward.

FINAL ANALYSIS Eastern Michigan lacks the top-level talent and depth to make a big move in the MAC West this season, but second-year coach Chris Creighton is moving the team in the right direction. The Eagles have finished 2–10 in each of the past three seasons, but a more favorable schedule — with three home games in September and six overall — could help them exceed that win total. For a program that hasn't had a winning season since 1995, three or four wins would certainly be something to build on.


REGINALD BELL

"I think Reginald Bell might be the most purely talented QB in our league as far as a dual-threat guy."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	3	**Dustin Creel (Sr.)**	81	Kevin Davis (Jr.)
WR	8	**Kris Strange (Sr.)**	80	Austin Stone (So.)
LT	62	Ka'John Armstrong (Fr.)	64	Dakota Tallman (Fr.)
LG	57	Jeremy Hickey (Fr.)	74	Cody McIntire (Fr.)
C	55	Kent Collins (Sr.)	50	Jake Hurcombe (Jr.)
RG	70	Matt Thornton (Jr.)	63	Darian Miles (Sr.)
RT	**72**	**Andrew Wylie (Jr.)**	**71**	**Darien Terrell (Jr.)**
TE	84	Cole Gardner (Jr.)		Cody Tuttle (Fr.)
QB	**10**	**Reginald Bell (So.)**	4	Brogan Roback (So.)
FB	45	Lavonte Robinson (So.)	20	Juwan Lewis (Jr.)
RB	6	Darius Jackson (Sr.)	34	Shaq Vann (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	90	Jeremiah Harris (So.)	15	Clay Dawson (Sr.)
DT	**52**	**Pat O'Connor (Sr.)**	99	Arron Pipkins (Sr.)
DT	**96**	**Mike Brown (Jr.)**	94	Derrick Dunlap (So.)
LB	**44**	**Hunter Matt (Sr.)**	28	Amos Houston (Jr.)
LB	**10**	**Great Ibe (Sr.)**	36	Nathan Adams (Jr.)
LB	19	Ike Spearman (Jr.)	56	Gabriel Guilbee-Rodriguez (Jr.)
LB	**43**	**Anthony Zappone (Jr.)**	47	Derric Williams (So.)
CB	**33**	**DaQuan Pace (Jr.)**	29	Jalen Williams (Sr.)
CB	31	Ray Tillman (Sr.)	14	Ross Williams (Fr.)
S	**39**	**Jason Beck (So.)**	7	Ikie Calderon (Jr.)
S	35	Brandon Bossard (So.)	11	Devon Russell (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Dylan Mulder (Sr.)	KR		Kezio Snelling (Fr.)
P	17	Austin Barnes (So.)	PR	3	Dustin Creel (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Reginald Bell, 184-105-1,297-6, 9 TDs
Rushing: Reginald Bell, 133 att., 562 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Dustin Creel, 24 rec., 228 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Great Ibe, 133
Sacks: Pat O'Connor, 7.5
Interceptions: Jason Beck, 1; DaQuan Pace, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Eric Canha/CSM/Landov

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

National Forecast: 80
MAC West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Rod Carey
Record at School: 23-6 (2+ years)
Career Record: 23-6 (2+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob Cole
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Niemann
DeKalb, IL • Huskie Stadium (23,595)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 UNLV
12 Murray State
19 at Ohio State
26 at Boston College

OCTOBER
3 at Central Michigan
10 Ball State
17 at Miami (Ohio)
24 Eastern Michigan

NOVEMBER
3 at Toledo
11 at Buffalo
18 Western Michigan
24 Ohio

2014 RESULTS (11-3, 7-1)

Aug.	28	Presbyterian	W	55-3
Sept.	6	at Northwestern	W	23-15
Sept.	13	at UNLV	W	48-34
Sept.	20	at Arkansas	L	14-52
Oct.	4	Kent State	W	17-14
Oct.	11	Central Michigan	L	17-34
Oct.	18	Miami (Ohio)	W	51-41
Oct.	25	at Eastern Michigan	W	28-17
Nov.	5	at Ball State	W	35-21
Nov.	11	Toledo	W	27-24
Nov.	18	at Ohio	W	21-14
Nov.	28	at Western Michigan	W	31-21
Dec.	5	vs. Bowling Green %	W	51-17
Dec.	23	vs. Marshall #	L	23-52

#Boca Raton Bowl %Detroit

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Spencer Tears, WR, Oak Law, IL
2. D.J. Brown, ATH, North Little Rock, AR
3. Kyle Pugh, LB, Chicago Heights, IL
4. Nathan Veloz, OG, Oak Creek, WI
5. Josh Corcoran, LB, Lakeville, MN
6. Steven Lee, WR, Champaign, IL
7. Jordan Steckler, OT, Two Rivers, WI
8. Vincent Hughes, OT, Franklin, WI
9. Sutton Smith, RB, Saint Charles, MO
10. Marcus Kelly, DE, Waukesha, WI

STAT CORNER

5

Consecutive MAC West titles won by NIU. The Huskies have replaced two head coaches and two star QBs and kept rolling.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	4	47
Rushing	249.1 ypg	2	16
Passing	192.1 ypg	12	97
Total	441.2 ypg	2	36
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	25.6 ppg	5	51
Rushing	163.1 ypg	6	58
Passing	228.5 ypg	5	63
Total	391.6 ypg	4	57
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+12	+0.86	1	9

OFFENSE Northern Illinois has remained one of the best offensive units in the MAC through several coaching changes over the last decade. The offense should keep on piling up points and yardage in 2015, but it will have a slightly different look.

Unlike last season, there won't be any uncertainty at quarterback. Drew Hare won a three-player competition with his performance in the second half of a win at Northwestern in Week 2. Hare doesn't possess the running ability of past stars Jordan Lynch or Chandler Harnish, but he completed nearly 60 percent of his passes and threw 18 touchdowns with just two interceptions.

"He's a completely different quarterback," NIU coach Rod Carey says. "He has the confidence of knowing he's the quarterback."

The offense should be more pass-heavy because of the athleticism and depth at wide receiver. Senior Tommylee Lewis, who had 86 receptions in 2013, is back after missing most of last season with a toe injury. Senior Juwan Brescacin is a big-play threat, junior Chad Beebe is a solid possession receiver and North Dakota transfer Kenny Golladay's size makes him an instant red-zone threat.

The Huskies' success on offense usually hinges on their ability to run the ball and the development of the line. They finished 16th in the country in rushing offense last season, averaging 249.1 yards per game, but they must replace running backs Cameron Stingily and Akeem Daniels. Northern Illinois will employ a committee approach, with Keith Harris Jr., Joel Bouagnon, Draco Smith and Jordan Huff splitting carries early in the season.

Questions surround the offensive line as center Andrew Ness and left guard Aidan Conlon are the lone returning starters. Right guard Josh Ruka, right tackle Lincoln Howard and left tackle Levon Myers all gained valuable experience as reserves last season.

DEFENSE While eight starters return from a unit that finished 51st in the country in scoring defense, the Huskies must replace defensive end Jason Meehan and free safety Dechane Durante, although the core of a defense that forced 24 takeaways and registered 32 sacks last season is mostly back. Up front, the Huskies need defensive ends Cameron Clinton-Earl and Perez Ford to apply pressure. Rasheen Lemon, the second-leading tackler last season, headlines a solid group of linebackers.

The secondary is a position of strength, with three starters back from a unit that picked off the majority of the 14 interceptions last season. Strong safety Marlon Moore, who led the Huskies with 99 tackles, is the anchor, and all-conference cornerback Paris Logan is a proven defender.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Christian Hagan emerged late last season to become a reliable option. Redshirt freshman punter Peter Deppe is the leading candidate to take over for Tyler Wedel. The return game could use an upgrade after finishing 91st on kickoff returns and 74th on punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite the Huskies' loss of most of their playmakers on offense and top sack specialist, the road to the MAC West title still goes through Northern Illinois. The offense has the potential to be formidable again with a solid group of running backs, an explosive corps of receivers and Hare benefitting from a full offseason as the starting quarterback. Defensively, the Huskies are solid in the secondary with a few spots to fill at linebacker and along the defensive line.

The Huskies have lost three straight bowl games, including a 52–23 blowout loss to Marshall in the Boca Raton Bowl last season. Carey is not shying away from using that as motivation. The conference schedule is favorable for a run at a sixth straight West title and fourth conference championship in five years.


DREW HARE

"They lost a Heisman finalist and still won the league. They've elevated their program ahead of the rest of us."
- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	11	**Juwan Brescacin (Sr.)**	19	Kenny Golladay (Jr.)	
WR	10	Tommylee Lewis (Sr.)	82	Chad Beebe (Jr.)	
LT	71	Levon Myers (Jr.)	68	Ron Brown (Jr.)	
LG	61	**Aidan Conlon (Sr.)**	62	Mike Smith (So)	
C	55	**Andrew Ness (Sr.)**	77	Shane Evans (Fr.)	
RG	70	Josh Ruka (Jr.)	57	Scott Taylor (Jr.)	
RT	74	Lincoln Howard (Jr.)	73	Max Scharping (Fr.)	
TE	37	**Desroy Maxwell (Sr.)**	84	Kevin Tennenbaum (Sr.)	
QB	12	**Drew Hare (Jr.)**	1	Anthony Maddie (Jr.)	
FB	35	Shane Wimann (So.)	87	Denzel Tolliver (Fr.)	
RB	28	**Joel Bouagnon (Jr.)**	20	Keith Harris Jr. (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	54	Cameron Clinton-Earl (Sr.)	93	Rajshawn Mosley (So.)
DT	90	**William Lee (So.)**	92	Mario Jones (So.)
DT	56	Ben Compton (Sr.)	69	**Corey Thomas (Jr.)**
DE	44	**Perez Ford (Sr.)**	8	Ladell Fleming (Jr.)
LB	9	**Rasheen Lemon (Sr.)**	16	Renard Cheren (Fr.)
LB	45	**Boomer Mays (Sr.)**	33	Jamaal Payton (Jr.)
LB	40	Sean Fotliard (Jr.)	42	Alex Schwab (So.)
CB	31	**Anthony Brooks (Jr.)**	43	Albert Smalls (So.)
CB	29	**Paris Logan (Sr.)**	5	Mayomi Olootu (So.)
S	2	**Marlon Moore (Sr.)**	27	Jawuan Johnson (Fr.)
S	24	Brandon Mayes (So.)	20	Mycial Allen (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	34	Christian Hagan (So.)	KR	22	Aregeros Turner (Jr.)
P	18	Peter Deppe (Fr.)	PR	10	Tommylee Lewis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Drew Hare, 326-194-2,322-2, 18 TDs
Rushing: Drew Hare, 159 att., 900 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Aregeros Turner, 37 rec., 398 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Marlon Moore, 99
Sacks: Perez Ford, 5.0
Interceptions: Paris Logan, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Scott Walstrom, NIU Media Services

TOLEDO ROCKETS

National Forecast: 75
MAC West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Matt Campbell
Record at School: 26-13 (3+ years)
Career Record: 26-13 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jason Candle
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Heacock
Toledo, OH • Glass Bowl (26,248)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Stony Brook
12 at Arkansas
19 Iowa State
26 Arkansas State

OCTOBER
3 at Ball State
10 Kent State
17 Eastern Michigan
24 at Massachusetts

NOVEMBER
3 Northern Illinois
10 at Central Michigan
17 at Bowling Green
27 Western Michigan

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Aug.	30	New Hampshire	W	54-20
Sept.	6	Missouri	L	24-49
Sept.	12	at Cincinnati	L	34-58
Sept.	20	Ball State	W	34-23
Sept.	27	Central Michigan	W	42-28
Oct.	4	at Western Michigan	W	20-19
Oct.	11	at Iowa State	L	30-37
Oct.	25	Massachusetts	W	42-35
Nov.	4	at Kent State	W	30-20
Nov.	11	at Northern Illinois	L	24-27
Nov.	19	Bowling Green	W	27-20
Nov.	28	at Eastern Michigan	W	52-16
Jan.	4	vs. Arkansas State #	W	63-44

#GoDaddy Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Aaron Covington, DB, Tampa, FL
2. Chris Green, LB, Toledo, OH
3. Darrion Landry, WR, Baytown, TX*
4. Cameron Bell, OL, Sagamore Hills, OH
5. Mitchell Guadagni, OB, Hudson, OH
6. Nicholas Potts, TE, Hilliard OH
7. Bryce Harris, OL, Akron, OH
8. Tyler Taafe, LB, Hubbard, OH
9. Arthur Thompkins, RB, Pittsburgh, PA
10. Jordan Fair, OL, Mason, OH

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

3

Total career starts for Toledo's returning offensive linemen. The Rockets have to completely rebuild one of FBS' best lines.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	36.6 ppg	1	19
Rushing	256.4 ypg	1	12
Passing	234.2 ypg	8	59
Total	490.5 ypg	1	15
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	8	90
Rushing	116.2 ypg	1	14
Passing	291.7 ypg	13	123
Total	407.9 ypg	7	76
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-3	-0.23	7	81

OFFENSE The most important person around the Rockets' program in the offseason was offensive line coach Tom Manning, since his unit likely holds the key to Toledo's 2015 season. The Rockets have a wealth of experienced and proven skill position players but lost five senior starters on the offensive line, including three all-conference performers.

The rebuild could not be more significant. Left tackle Storm Norton filled in for three games last season due to an injury, but beyond him the Rockets hope to get rapid development and productive play from a host of newcomers. Depending on that line will be running back Kareem Hunt, a first team all-conference pick and 1,600-yard rusher a season ago who had 271 yards and five touchdowns in the GoDaddy Bowl win over Arkansas State.

Phillip Ely and Logan Woodside both started and were productive at quarterback last season before injuries forced them to the sidelines. Ely returns from knee surgery, while Woodside rehabs a serious ankle injury. Ely, who transferred from Alabama two years ago, might have the edge in the derby to earn the starting job, but both he and Woodside have demonstrated they can make this offense explosive.

The fireworks through the air usually involve three-time all-conference wide receiver Alonzo Russell, a 6'4" target who caught 51 passes for 770 yards and eight scores last season. Speedy slot receiver Corey Jones had a team-high 68 receptions a year ago.

DEFENSE Toledo's deck is full of options on this side of the ball, where depth and athleticism are plentiful. The crew up front comprises the deepest and likely the most talented unit in the program, and the group is led by returning all-conference tackles Treyvon Hester and Orion Jones. End Trent Voss led MAC linemen in tackles last season with 77. Adding depth at tackle are Chris Collins and Marquise Moore, both of whom have starting experience, while returning starter Allen Covington had 29 stops last season at end.

The Rockets return veteran Chase Murdock at linebacker, where he could be joined by Jaylen Coleman, Ju'Wuan Woodley or Zach Quinn once the position battles play out.

After being decimated by injuries the last two seasons, the secondary boasts four cornerbacks with significant starting credentials — Cheatham Norrils and Cameron Cole, the 2013 starters who missed last season with injuries, and 2014 starters Jordan Martin and Christian Dukes. The safeties will come from the group of Chaz Whittaker, UAB transfer Rolan Milligan, DeJuan Rogers and Delando Johnson.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game is a big question mark after the departure of three-time All-MAC kicker Jeremiah Detmer. Sophomore Sam Vucelich has the inside track to man that position. Junior Nick Ellis returns at punter, but he needs to improve on his league-worst 36.6-yard average. The strength of the special teams is likely the return game. Jones averaged 11.8 yards on his league-high 24 punt returns in 2014.

FINAL ANALYSIS Toledo has the luxury of playing seven home games in 2015, and the Rockets return of plenty of playmakers on defense and some extremely talented individuals at running back and receiver. But all of the optimism has to be tempered by the fact that Toledo has gone from having one of the most experienced offensive lines in the country last year with five senior starters to having one of the least experienced this time around. The development of that new line is the key to the season. If the offensive line grows up fast, the Rockets should be a championship-caliber team in 2015.


KAREEM HUNT

"If the QB (Phillip Ely) comes back 100 percent from the knee injury, I think they're going to be the team to beat."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	9	**Alonzo Russell (Sr.)**	7	Jon'Vea Johnson (Fr.)
WR	4	**Corey Jones (Jr.)**	6	Kishon Wilcher (Sr.)
WR	25	Cody Thompson (So.)	84	Darryl Richards (So.)
LT	74	Storm Norton (Jr.)	73	Alex Pfeiffer (Fr.)
LG		Ruben Carter (Sr.)	53	Bill Weber (So.)
C	76	Elijah Nkansah (So.)	60	Nate Jeppesen (So.)
RG	68	Paul Perschon (Jr.)	67	Sami Kassem (Jr.)
RT	89	Mike Ebert (Jr.)	87	Brant Weiss (So.)
TE	81	Alex Zmolik (Sr.)	80	Michael Roberts (Jr.)
QB	12	Phillip Ely (Sr.)	**11**	**Logan Woodside (Jr.)**
RB	**3**	**Kareem Hunt (Jr.)**	24	Damion Jones-Moore (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**99**	**Allen Covington (Sr.)**	34	Keenen Gibbs (Sr.)
DT	**91**	**Treyvon Hester (Jr.)**	53	Chris Collins (Sr.)
DT	**97**	**Orion Jones (Sr.)**	52	Marquise Moore (Jr.)
DE	**43**	**Trent Voss (Sr.)**	14	Tre James (Sr.)
LB	44	Jaylen Coleman (Jr.)	30	Ja'Wuan Woodley (So.)
LB	40	Chase Murdock (Sr.)	42	Richard Olekanma (So.)
LB	31	Zach Quinn (So.)	19	Bernard Rogers (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**Jordan Martin (Jr.)**	28	Cameron Cole (Sr.)
CB	11	Cheatham Norrils (Sr.)	**5**	**Chris Dukes (Sr.)**
S	**8**	**Chaz Whittaker (Jr.)**	17	Rolan Milligan (Sr.)
S	**23**	**DeJuan Rogers (Jr.)**	7	Delando Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Sam Vucelich (So.)	KR	4	Corey Jones (Jr.)
P	48	Nick Ellis (Jr.)	PR	4	Corey Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Logan Woodside, 296-185-2,263-8, 19 TDs
Rushing: Kareem Hunt, 205 att., 1,631 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Corey Jones, 68 rec., 842 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Trent Voss, 77
Sacks: Orion Jones, 6.0
Interceptions: Christian Dukes, 2; Chaz Whittaker, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Toledo Athletics

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

National Forecast: 81
MAC West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: P.J. Fleck
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 9-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kirk Ciarrocca
Defensive Coordinator: Ed Pinkham
Kalamazoo, MI • Waldo Stadium (30,200)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
4	Michigan State	
12	at Georgia Southern	
19	Murray State	
26	at Ohio State	
OCTOBER		
10	Central Michigan	
17	at Ohio	
24	Miami (Ohio)	
29	at Eastern Michigan	
NOVEMBER		
5	Ball State	
11	Bowling Green	
18	at Northern Illinois	
27	at Toledo	

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Aug.	30	at Purdue	L	34-43
Sept.	13	at Idaho	W	45-33
Sept.	20	Murray State	W	45-14
Sept.	27	at Virginia Tech	L	17-35
Oct.	4	Toledo	L	19-20
Oct.	11	at Ball State	W	42-38
Oct.	18	at Bowling Green	W	26-14
Oct.	25	Ohio	W	42-21
Nov.	1	at Miami (Ohio)	W	41-10
Nov.	15	Eastern Michigan	W	51-7
Nov.	22	at Central Michigan	W	32-20
Nov.	28	Northern Illinois	L	21-31
Dec.	20	vs. Air Force #	L	24-38

#Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justin Tranquill, DB, Huntertown, IN
2. LaVante Bellamy, WR, Indianapolis, IN
3. Wesley French, OL, Benton Harbor, MI
4. John Keenoy, OL, Kentwood, MI
5. Kadeem Goulbourne, WR, Weston, FL
6. Davon Tucker, RB, Somerdale, NJ
7. Justin Spencer, DB, Oviedo, FL
8. Eric Assoua, DE, Silver Springs, MD
9. Alex Grace, ATH, Saginaw, MI
10. Anton Curtis, ATH, Detroit, MI

WMU's points scored per trip inside the 40, best in the country. The Broncos were clinical when it came to finishing drives.

STAT CORNER

5.40

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	33.8 ppg	2	32
Rushing	170.8 ypg	5	55
Passing	267.3 ypg	3	34
Total	438.2 ypg	4	39
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.9 ppg	3	42
Rushing	153.5 ypg	5	47
Passing	217.6 ypg	2	48
Total	371.2 ypg	3	45
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+3	+0.23	4	48

OFFENSE Western Michigan's players were "finally able to touch faith" last season, third-year coach P.J. Fleck says, after living on faith alone during the first year-and-a-half he was at the helm. The Broncos' seven-game improvement in 2014 took place in large part because their quarterback, Zach Terrell, and offensive line were surprisingly effective, and freshman running back Jarvion Franklin arrived on campus and dazzled. Nine starters return from an offense that ranked second in the MAC in scoring (33.8 ppg). That includes Terrell, Franklin, all three starting wideouts and three offensive linemen.

Terrell took hold of the offense during his sophomore season. He passed for 3,443 yards, 26 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, leading the MAC in passing efficiency. Terrell's two dynamic targets from a year ago are again at his disposal, juniors Corey Davis and Daniel Braverman. Davis led the MAC in receiving yards (1,408), Braverman in receptions (86).

Franklin is a shifty 6'0", 220-pound back with deceptive speed. He rushed for 1,551 yards and 24 touchdowns — fourth-most in college football last season. The reigning MAC Offensive Player of the Year should spend his sophomore year running behind a mostly seasoned offensive line, including seniors James Kristof and Willie Beavers at left guard and tackle, respectively. WMU intends to start a true freshman at center, John Keenoy, an early enrollee who surprised coaches with his readiness during the spring. Sophomore right tackle Chukwuma Okorafor, entering his first year as a full-time starter, might be the best of the group.

DEFENSE The Broncos' defense has a few more holes to plug. All-MAC defensive backs Justin Currie and Donald Celiscar and nose tackle Richard Ash (a graduate transfer from Michigan) were staples of a defense that saw its points allowed drop from 35.4 in 2013 to 24.9 in '14.

Middle linebacker Grant DePalma tallied 102 tackles, benefiting from the work of Ash and his cohorts up front. Two starters return on the line, including tackle Cleveland Smith (5.5 sacks), but "a lot of guys that haven't seen a lot of playing time need to get in there and go," Fleck says.

WMU's secondary is still expected to be the strength of this unit. Two starters return on the back end — all-league corner Ronald Zamort (tied for the MAC lead in pass breakups last season) and safety Rontavious Atkins. The most intriguing piece is sophomore Darius Phillips, the fastest player on the team. Phillips is being groomed to play both corner and wideout. He also led the MAC in kickoff return average last season (26.4 ypr).

SPECIALISTS Senior kicker Andrew Haldeman has made 30-of-37 field goals the last two years, while classmate J. Schroeder averaged a career-best 42.8 yards per punt last season. The best story among this crew, however, is kickoff specialist Derrick Mitchell, a 28-year-old once-touted minor league baseball prospect who was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in 2005. Mitchell is only six years younger than Fleck.

FINAL ANALYSIS WMU won eight games in 2014, but "we probably won more games on paper than what kind of football team we actually had," Fleck says. "We kind of got on a roll." This year's team might be better and win less. The schedule is unforgiving. In an apparent effort to win the Big Ten's East Division, the Broncos get Michigan State and Ohio State in September, opening with the Spartans in Kalamazoo. They close with midweek road games at division rivals Northern Illinois and Toledo, both of which Fleck has yet to beat. "We've done all the work to earn expectations," Fleck says. Meeting them will be a bear.


JARVION FRANKLIN

"It'll be interesting to see how they replace that senior class, but they have a ton back. Talented team."

- An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**84**	**Corey Davis (Jr.)**	19	Kadeem Goulborne (Fr.)	
WR	**8**	**Daniel Braverman (Jr.)**	83	Michael Henry (Jr.)	
WR	**9**	**Kendrick Roberts (Sr.)**	15	Carrington Thompson (Jr.)	
LT	**70**	**Willie Beavers (Sr.)**	78	Elliot Jordan (Fr.)	
LG	**79**	**James Kristof (Sr.)**	67	Curtis Doyle (Fr.)	
C	52	John Keenoy (Fr.)	65	Jackson Day (Jr.)	
RG	**72**	**Taylor Moton (Jr.)**	75	Zach Novoselsky (Fr.)	
RT	77	Chukwuma Okorafor (So.)		Wesley French (Fr.)	
TE	**89**	**Eric Boyden (Sr.)**		Donnie Ernsberger (So.)	
QB	**11**	**Zach Terrell (Jr.)**	13	Tom Flacco (Fr.)	
RB	**31**	**Jarvion Franklin (So.)**	32	Jamauri Bogan (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**98**	**Jarrell McKinney (Sr.)**	12	Keion Adams (Jr.)
DT	**8**	**Cleveland Smith (Sr.)**	15	Jamar Simpkins (Jr.)
DT	68	David Curle (Jr.)	55	Nick Matich (So.)
DE	**53**	**Nathan Braster (So.)**	5	Andre Turner (So.)
SLB	38	Austin Lewis (Jr.)	4	Edward Rolle (Jr.)
MLB	**40**	**Grant DePalma (Sr.)**	42	Jason Sylva (Jr.)
WLB	**10**	**Robert Spillane (So.)**		Alex Grace (Fr.)
CB	**7**	**Ronald Zamort (Sr.)**	23	Ian Thomas (So.)
CB	14	Darius Phillips (So.)	19	Tyree Stone-Davis (Jr.)
SS	**1**	**Rontavious Atkins (Sr.)**	17	Justin Ferguson (Jr.)
FS	6	Asantay Brown (So.)	18	Deontae Brown (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Andrew Haldeman (Sr.)	**KR**	14	Darius Phillips (So.)
P	37	J. Schroeder (Sr.)	**PR**	8	Daniel Braverman (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zach Terrell, 368-250-3,443-10, 26 TDs
Rushing: Jarvion Franklin, 306 att., 1,551 yds., 24 TDs
Receiving: Daniel Braverman, 86 rec., 997 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Grant DePalma, 102
Sacks: Cleveland Smith, 5.5
Interceptions: Ronald Zamort, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

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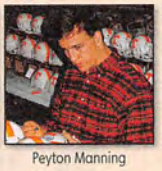
Terry Bradshaw

Brett Favre

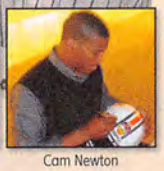
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MOUNTAIN WEST PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	MOUNTAIN		WEST
1	BOISE STATE BRONCOS 12-1, 8-0 MW	1	SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS 8-5, 6-2 MW
2	UTAH STATE AGGIES 8-4, 7-1 MW	2	NEVADA WOLF PACK 6-6, 5-3 MW
3	COLORADO STATE RAMS 7-5, 5-3 MW	3	FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS 5-7, 4-4 MW
4	AIR FORCE FALCONS 7-5, 5-3 MW	4	SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS 4-8, 3-5 MW
5	WYOMING COWBOYS 5-7, 3-5 MW	5	HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS 3-10, 1-7 MW
6	NEW MEXICO LOBOS 4-8, 1-7 MW	6	UNLV REBELS 1-11, 0-8 MW

MW Championship Game: Boise State over San Diego State

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Fiesta Bowl: Boise State 38, Arizona 30

Las Vegas Bowl: Utah 45, Colorado State 10

Poinsettia Bowl: Navy 17, San Diego State 16

New Orleans Bowl: UL-Lafayette 16, Nevada 3

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Air Force 38, Western Michigan 24

New Mexico Bowl: Utah State 21, UTEP 6

Hawaii Bowl: Rice 30, Fresno State 6

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Fiesta Bowl: Boise State vs. Oregon

Las Vegas Bowl: Utah State vs. California

Poinsettia Bowl: Colorado State vs. Washington

Armed Forces Bowl: Air Force vs. Maryland

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Nevada vs. Bowling Green

New Mexico Bowl: San Diego State vs. Louisiana Tech

Boise State: John Kelly/BSU Athletics; Pumphrey: Ernie Anderson/SDSU Athletics

2014 MW STANDINGS

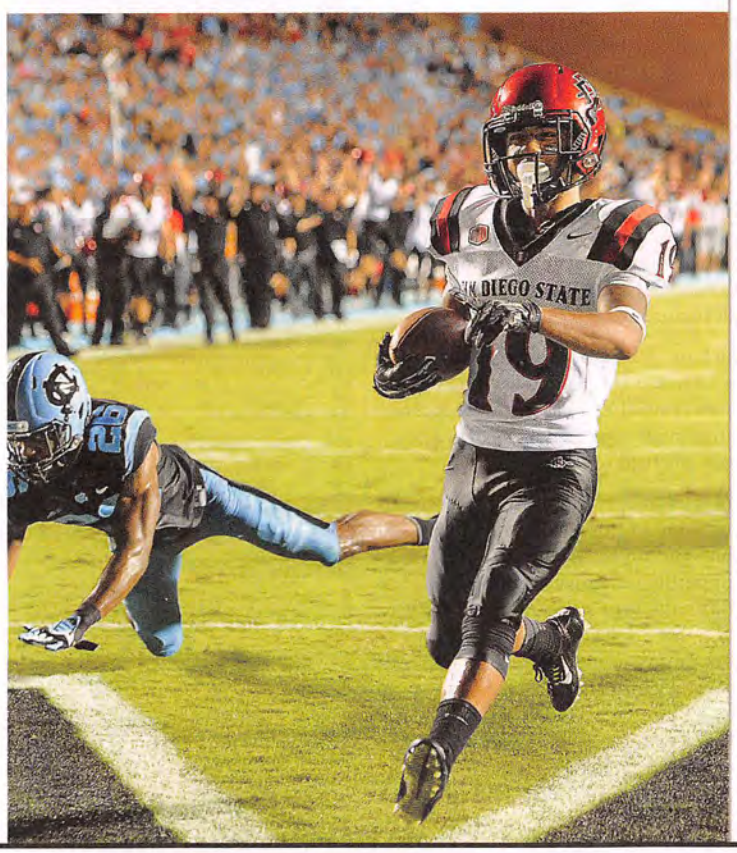
WEST	MW	OVERALL	MOUNTAIN	MW	OVERALL
BOISE STATE	7-1	12-2	FRESNO STATE	5-3	6-8
COLORADO STATE	6-2	10-3	SAN DIEGO STATE	5-3	7-6
UTAH STATE	6-2	10-4	NEVADA	4-4	7-6
AIR FORCE	5-3	10-3	HAWAII	3-5	4-9
NEW MEXICO	2-6	4-8	SAN JOSE STATE	2-6	3-9
WYOMING	2-6	4-8	UNLV	1-7	2-11

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	4	7	8	7	9	11	10
BOISE STATE	2	10	2	1	1	2	1
COLORADO STATE	3	6	1	3	5	6	4
FRESNO STATE	10	4	10	4	8	8	7
HAWAII	11	11	6	11	7	5	6
NEVADA	9	5	4	9	4	4	8
NEW MEXICO	6	3	12	6	10	7	9
SAN DIEGO STATE	8	1	9	8	2	3	2
SAN JOSE STATE	7	8	5	5	11	10	3
UNLV	12	12	7	12	12	9	11
UTAH STATE	1	9	3	2	3	1	5
WYOMING	5	2	11	10	6	12	12

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Boise State 2. San Jose State 3. San Diego State 4. Fresno State
5. Utah State 6. Wyoming 7. UNLV 8. Nevada 9. New Mexico
10. Colorado State 11. Hawaii 12. Air Force



PRESEASON ALL-MW TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Chuckie Keeton	6-2	210	Sr.	Utah State
RB	Donnel Pumphrey	5-9	170	Jr.	San Diego State
RB	Marteze Waller	5-11	209	Sr.	Fresno State
WR	Devonte Boyd	6-1	175	So.	UNLV
WR	Rashard Higgins	6-2	188	Jr.	Colorado State
WR	Thomas Sperbeck	6-0	176	Jr.	Boise State
C	Marcus Henry	6-3	296	Sr.	Boise State
G	Andrew Ruechel	6-1	260	Sr.	Air Force
G	Fred Zerblis	6-3	295	Jr.	Colorado State
T	Alex Fifita	6-4	303	Sr.	Fresno State
T	Rees Odhiambo	6-4	303	Sr.	Boise State

First-Team Defense

DL	Kamalei Correa	6-3	244	Jr.	Boise State
DL	Jordan Nielsen	6-5	270	Sr.	Utah State
DL	Ian Seau	6-2	255	Sr.	Nevada
DL	Eddie Yarbrough	6-3	251	Sr.	Wyoming
LB	Kyler Fackrell	6-5	250	Sr.	Utah State
LB	Nick Vigil	6-2	230	Jr.	Utah State
LB	Tanner Vallejo	6-1	226	Jr.	Boise State
CB	Donte Deayon	5-9	150	Sr.	Boise State
CB	Damontae Kazee	5-11	180	Jr.	San Diego State
S	Weston Steelhammer	6-2	200	Jr.	Air Force
S	Darian Thompson	6-2	210	Sr.	Boise State

First-Team Specialists

K	Donald Hageman	6-1	170	Sr.	San Diego State
P	Alex Boy	6-3	195	Jr.	Nevada
KR	Deionte Gaines	5-8	175	So.	Colorado State
PR	JoJo Natson	5-7	160	Sr.	Utah State

Second-Team Offense

QB	Ryan Finley	6-4	199	So.	Boise State
RB	Jhurell Pressley	5-10	200	Sr.	New Mexico
RB	Shaun Wick	5-10	212	Sr.	Wyoming
WR	Jalen Robinette	6-3	220	Jr.	Air Force
WR	Hunter Sharp	6-0	200	Sr.	Utah State
WR	Tyler Winston	6-2	191	Jr.	San Jose State
C	Austin Stephens	6-3	305	Jr.	Utah State
G	Darrell Greene	6-4	315	Sr.	San Diego State
G	Chase Roullier	6-4	293	Jr.	Wyoming
T	Sam Carlson	6-4	290	Sr.	Colorado State
T	Jake Simonich	6-5	295	Jr.	Utah State

Second-Team Defense

DL	Alex Barrett	6-3	260	Jr.	San Diego State
DL	Alex Hansen	6-3	260	Sr.	Air Force
DL	Travis Seefeldt	6-2	300	Sr.	Utah State
DL	Kennedy Tulimasealii	6-1	280	Jr.	Hawaii
LB	Dakota Cox	6-0	230	Jr.	New Mexico
LB	Cory James	6-1	240	Sr.	Colorado State
LB	Calvin Munson	6-1	235	Jr.	San Diego State
CB	Cleveland Wallace III	5-11	177	Jr.	San Jose State
CB	J.J. Whittaker	5-10	180	Sr.	San Diego State
S	Trent Matthews	6-3	210	Sr.	Colorado State
S	Peni Vea	6-1	205	Sr.	UNLV

Second-Team Specialists

K	Brent Zuzo	5-10	175	Jr.	Nevada
P	Hayden Hunt	5-11	210	Jr.	Colorado State
KR	Ridge Jones	5-10	166	Jr.	New Mexico
PR	Lloyd Mills	5-10	165	Jr.	San Diego State

AIR FORCE FALCONS

National Forecast: 83
MW Mountain Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Troy Calhoun
Record at School: 59-44 (8 years)
Career Record: 59-44 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Clay Hendrix
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Russ
Colorado Springs, CO
Falcon Stadium (46,692)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Morgan State	
12	San Jose State	
19	at Michigan State	
OCTOBER		
3	at Navy	
10	Wyoming	
17	at Colorado State	
24	Fresno State	
31	at Hawaii	
NOVEMBER		
7	Army	
14	Utah State	
20	at Boise State	
28	at New Mexico	

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Nicholls	W	44-16
Sept.	6	at Wyoming	L	13-17
Sept.	13	at Georgia State	W	48-38
Sept.	27	Boise State	W	28-14
Oct.	4	Navy	W	30-21
Oct.	11	at Utah State	L	16-34
Oct.	18	New Mexico	W	35-31
Nov.	1	at Army	W	23-6
Nov.	8	at UNLV	W	48-21
Nov.	15	Nevada (ot)	W	45-38
Nov.	21	at San Diego State	L	14-30
Nov.	28	Colorado State	W	27-24
Dec.	20	vs. Western Michigan #	W	38-24

#Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cade Erwin, DB, Flower Mound, TX
2. Jake Matkovich, WR, Milwaukee, WI
3. Jared Pulu, LB, Federal Way, WA
4. Miles Alexander, RB, Overland Park, KS
5. Ryan Brand, QB, Detroit, MI
6. Sam Barry, QB, Grapevine, TX
7. Luke Dekker, DT, Albuquerque, NM
8. Gavin Graham, DB, Austin, TX
9. Garrett Amy, WR, Dallas, TX
10. Nick Capella, OL, Ventura, CA

Rushing attempts by Air Force in 2014, the most in the FBS ranks. It was the first time the Falcons led the nation since 2008.

STAT CORNER

796

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	3	48
Rushing	273.1 ypg	2	6
Passing	145.6 ypg	11	117
Total	418.7 ypg	3	52
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	24.2 ppg	3	33
Rushing	135.6 ypg	2	28
Passing	259.2 ypg	11	102
Total	394.8 ypg	5	60
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+1	+0.08	7	57

OFFENSE For the first time since 2012, there's no drama at quarterback. Nate Romine spent almost all of 2014 as a spectator after starting in 2013, but he delivered a huge splash in his one meaningful appearance, leading the Falcons to victory over nationally ranked Colorado State. Romine is the rare Falcons quarterback who's a better passer than runner, but he understands how to operate the complex triple-option, run-first attack.

The Falcons are deep at fullback with D.J. Johnson and Shayne Davern, both big, brutish and surprisingly elusive. Runs up the middle will be common, and coaches are trying to find ways to place both fullbacks on the field.

Jacobi Owens broke the 1,000-yard mark before suffering a season-ending injury to his right foot, but he often showed an unfortunate knack for turning an 8-yard gain into a 5-yard gain. He needs to show more imagination and daring this season. Owens will lead a deep, if underwhelming, set of tailbacks.

Romine's set of receivers is so athletic it creates confusion. Why did wide receivers Jalen Robinette, Garrett Brown and tight end Garrett Griffin choose to play at Run University? Robinette, a high school quarterback, averaged 19 yards per catch last season while still learning his position. He's a dominating blocker and could become the Mountain West's most dangerous receiver.

The line was depleted by graduation, but expect superb and consistent blocking. Line coach Clay Hendrix is one of the nation's top assistants, and he's an expert at replacing lost parts. Tackle Matt Rochell and guard Andrew Ruechel will anchor the line.

DEFENSE The Falcons vaulted from two wins in 2013 to 10 wins in 2014 largely because of hustling, surprisingly violent defenders. Air Force allowed 40 points per game in 2013 but cut the number to 24.2 in 2014. Seven starters are gone, including linebacker Jordan Pierce, a clutch, big-hit specialist.

Alex Hansen is an undersized yet ferocious defensive end who plays with the same wisdom and fire as Ben Garland, the former cadet who now plays for the Denver Broncos. Hansen will need all his experience to escape constant double teams.

The Healy brothers, Patrick and Connor, lead a depleted group of linebackers. Dexter Walker, a converted defensive back, will play outside linebacker at just over 200 pounds. He personifies the team's profile. The Falcons are always undersized.

Strong safety Weston Steelhammer is fast, a ballhawk and capable of knockout hits, but he's surrounded by question marks. The suspension of cornerback Gavin McHenry is a severe blow. He is expected to miss at least half the season.

SPECIALISTS Placekicking was a catastrophe in spring practice. Drew Oehrle is the leading candidate to replace Will Conant, one of the nation's most accurate kickers, but a freshman could emerge as the starter. Brett Dunn leads the field of punters.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Falcons averaged 31.5 points per game in 2014. That number could jump to near 40 this season. The fullbacks and receivers are at historical strength, and if opposing defensive coordinators stack against the run, Romine owns the arm power and accuracy to torch defensive backs.

But can the defense keep opposing offenses in check? The Falcons win, and win big, when their undersized defenders consistently keep opponents under 25 points per game.

Expect the Falcons to rush to a winning record, which would be the seventh in nine seasons under coach Troy Calhoun, but the youthful defense must quickly jell for the Falcons to again flirt with 10 wins.



JACOBI OWENS

"They can be scary good because of the scheme, their internal discipline and their mental toughness."
— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	9	**Jalen Robinette (Jr.)**	12	Tyler Williams (So.)	
WR	7	**Garrett Brown (Sr.)**	15	Alex Ludowig (Sr.)	
LT	72	**Matt Rochell (Sr.)**	75	Luke Brantley (Sr.)	
LG	56	Colin Sandor (Jr.)	61	Jackson Wilson (Jr.)	
C	67	Dylan Vail (Jr.)	53	Jordan Tyler (So.)	
RG	58	**Andrew Ruechel (Sr.)**	55	Alexander Norton (So.)	
RT	74	Sevrin Remmo (Sr.)	73	Allen Caunitz (Jr.)	
TE	80	**Garrett Griffin (Sr.)**	83	Riley Huff (Sr.)	
QB	6	Nate Romine (Jr.)	16	Karson Roberts (Sr.)	
FB	3	D.J. Johnson (Jr.)	43	**Shayne Davern (Jr.)**	
RB	28	**Jacobi Owens (Jr.)**	5	Devin Rushing (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	87	**Alex Hansen (Sr.)**	38	Kellen Cleveland (Jr.)	
DT	93	Samual Byers (Jr.)	99	Jalen Lacy (Jr.)	
NG	53	David Harris (Jr.)	43	Santo Coppola (So.)	
OLB	6	**Connor Healy (Sr.)**	34	Haji Dunn (Jr.)	
ILB	40	Ryan Watson (Jr.)	42	John Flor (So.)	
ILB	41	Patrick Healy (Jr.)	47	Claude Alexander (Jr.)	
OLB	5	**Dexter Walker (Sr.)**	48	Jacob Onyechi (Jr.)	
CB	11	Jesse Washington (Jr.)	9	Jayce Webster (So.)	
CB	4	Kalon Baker (Sr.)	27	Tyler Weaver (Jr.)	
SS	8	**Weston Steelhammer (Jr.)**	25	Roland Ladipo (Jr.)	
FS	14	Hayes Linn (Jr.)	18	Brodie Hicks (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	94	Drew Oehrle (Sr.)	KR	5	Devin Rushing (Sr.)
P	92	Brett Dunn (Sr.)	PR	7	Garrett Brown (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nate Romine, 30-14-208-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jacobi Owens, 204 att., 1,054 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Jalen Robinette, 43 rec., 806 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Connor Healy, 90
Sacks: Alex Hansen, 3.5
Interceptions: Weston Steelhammer, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

USAF Athletics

BOISE STATE BRONCOS

National Forecast: 25
MW Mountain Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Bryan Harsin
Record at School: 12-2 (1 year)
Career Record: 19-7 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eliah Drinkwitz
Defensive Coordinator: Marcel Yates
Boise, ID • Albertson's Stadium (36,387)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Washington
12 at BYU
18 Idaho State
25 at Virginia

OCTOBER
3 Hawaii
10 at Colorado State
16 at Utah State
24 Wyoming
31 at UNLV

NOVEMBER
14 New Mexico
20 Air Force
27 at San Jose State

2014 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Aug.	28	vs. Ole Miss %	L	13-35
Sept.	6	Colorado State	W	37-24
Sept.	13	at Connecticut	W	38-21
Sept.	20	Louisiana	W	34-9
Sept.	27	at Air Force	L	14-28
Oct.	4	at Nevada	W	51-46
Oct.	17	Fresno State	W	37-27
Oct.	24	BYU	W	55-30
Nov.	8	at New Mexico	W	60-49
Nov.	15	San Diego State	W	38-29
Nov.	22	at Wyoming	W	63-14
Nov.	29	Utah State	W	50-19
Dec.	6	Fresno State $	W	28-14
Dec.	31	vs. Arizona #	W	38-30

%Atlanta $MW Championship #Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brett Rypien, QB, Spokane, WA
2. Kameron Miles, S, Mesquite, TX*
3. Drew Berger, LB, Coeur d'Alene, ID
4. Akilian Butler, WR, Dallas, TX
5. Matt Pistone, TE, Yuma, AZ
6. Evan Tyler, S, Corona, CA
7. Ladarryl Blair, ATH, Dallas TX
8. Damion Wright, S, Fontana, CA
9. Donzale Roddie, CB, Compton, CA
10. Tyler Horton CB, Fresno, CA

*junior college transfer

The last time Boise State lost more than 2 conference games in a season. It was Dirk Koetter's first year succeeding Houston Nutt.

STAT CORNER
1998

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	39.7 ppg	1	9
Rushing	213.9 ypg	4	29
Passing	280.4 ypg	2	23
Total	494.3 ypg	1	14
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	26.8 ppg	5	63
Rushing	142.6 ypg	3	36
Passing	232.9 ypg	7	74
Total	375.4 ypg	4	48
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+7	+0.50	3	30

OFFENSE The Broncos return nine offensive starters but still will look dramatically different this year. The two lost starters — quarterback Grant Hedrick and tailback Jay Ajayi — accounted for 89.1 percent of the team's yards and 92.4 percent of the offensive touchdowns. The program also changed offensive coordinators again. Tight ends coach Eliah Drinkwitz was promoted to become the fifth man in six years to orchestrate the Broncos' offense. He replaces Mike Sanford, who left after one successful season at his alma mater to become the coordinator at Notre Dame. Drinkwitz previously called plays for coach Bryan Harsin in 2013 at Arkansas State.

The quarterback and tailback holes won't be filled until August. Sophomore Ryan Finley, the backup last year, is the favorite to replace Hedrick. He tossed two touchdown passes in relief last year against Air Force. Sophomore Jeremy McNichols, who played a receiver/tailback combo role as a true freshman, is the front-runner for Ajayi's job, but coaches expect to utilize a committee this season rather than the one-back approach of 2014.

The two new starters will be surrounded by talent, including standout offensive linemen Marcus Henry (center) and Rees Odhiambo (left tackle); emerging pass catchers Thomas Sperbeck, Chaz Anderson and Jake Roh (tight end); and veteran receiver Shane Williams-Rhodes.

DEFENSE The Broncos return all but one defensive lineman, two outstanding linebackers and two all-conference defensive backs from a defense that lacked consistency but showed flashes of dominance last season.

The goal is to regain the conference's top spot in defense, a perch the Broncos have occupied frequently during their run of 10 top-25 seasons in 13 years. They turned stingy for a four-and-a-half-game stretch from halftime of the San Diego State game to the end of the season. The biggest flaw last year was giving up the big play, an area that should improve with this group's experience and the return of the nickel back. The Broncos were forced by injuries to move linebacker Tanner Vallejo to nickel, which limited their coverage options. Vallejo, who was the Defensive MVP of the Mountain West Championship Game and Fiesta Bowl, returns to middle linebacker after recording 16.5 tackles for a loss.

Other defensive standouts include Mountain West sack leader Kamalei Correa (12.0), MW interception leader Darian Thompson (seven, with one TD) and cornerback Donte Deayon (six interceptions, two TDs).

SPECIALISTS Junior Tyler Rausa replaces solid kicker Dan Goodale, while Sean Wale returns as the punter, coming off a career-best performance in the Fiesta Bowl. Long snapper Kevin Keane and holder Wale return, too. Williams-Rhodes and Deayon provide dynamic options as kick returners, though the Broncos did rank last in the league in kickoff returns in 2014 (18.8-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS The Broncos' 12–2 record and Fiesta Bowl championship were a surprise in 2014. This team is much better equipped for that type of season with its experience, depth and stable coaching staff. The Broncos might be unanimous favorites in the Mountain West and should start in the top 25. The key will be a loaded September schedule: The opener is against Washington and former coach Chris Petersen in Boise, and trips to BYU and Virginia follow. A 4–0 September would rekindle the buzz that surrounded the program's Kellen Moore era as an outsider trying to crash the national championship party. But even with a difficult start, the schedule strength will allow the Broncos to contend for another New Year's Six berth.



KAMALEI CORREA

"They're long and athletic, and in my opinion they recruit at a different level than the rest of the league."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	82	**Thomas Sperbeck (Jr.)**	14	Troy Ware (Sr.)	
WR	6	Chaz Anderson (Jr.)	8	Sean Modster (Fr.)	
WR	1	**Shane Williams-Rhodes (Sr.)**	28	A.J. Richardson (Fr.)	
LT	71	**Rees Odhiambo (Sr.)**	75	Eli McCullough (So.)	
LG	73	**Travis Averill (Jr.)**	76	Jerhen Ertel (Sr.)	
C	72	**Marcus Henry (Sr.)**	59	Mason Hampton (So.)	
RG	66	**Mario Yakoo (Jr.)**	70	Steven Baggett (Jr.)	
RT	70	**Steven Baggett (Jr.)**	74	Archie Lewis (So.)	
TE	88	**Jake Roh (So.)**	85	**Holden Huff (Sr.)**	
QB	15	Ryan Finley (So.)	3	Thomas Stuart (So.)	
RB	13	Jeremy McNichols (So.)	10	Cory Young (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	69	Tyler Horn (Sr.)	94	**Sam McCaskill (Jr.)**
DT	40	**Armand Nance (Sr.)**	90	Justin Taimatuia (Sr.)
DT	55	Deuce Mataele (Sr.)	98	Antoine Turner (Sr.)
DE	8	**Kamalei Correa (Jr.)**	33	Gabe Perez (Jr.)
LB	51	**Ben Weaver (Jr.)**	36	Tyler Gray (Sr.)
LB	20	**Tanner Vallejo (Jr.)**	7	Joe Martarano (So.)
NB	9	Mercy Maston (Sr.)	24	Kam Miles (So.)
CB	5	**Donte Deayon (Sr.)**	25	Raymond Ford (Jr.)
CB	30	**Jonathan Moxey (Jr.)**		Tyler Horton (Fr.)
S	4	**Darian Thompson (Sr.)**	22	Chanceller James (Jr.)
S	29	Dylan Sumner-Gardner (So.)	22	Chanceller James (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Tyler Rausa (Jr.)	KR	1	S. Williams-Rhodes (Sr.)
P	19	Sean Wale (Jr.)	PR	1	S. Williams-Rhodes (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Finley, 27-12-161-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Shane Williams-Rhodes, 15 att., 179 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Shane Williams-Rhodes, 68 rec., 585 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Tanner Vallejo, 100
Sacks: Kamalei Correa, 12.0
Interceptions: Darian Thompson, 7

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

John C. Kelly/Boise State University

COLORADO STATE RAMS

National Forecast: 71
MW Mountain Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Mike Bobo
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Will Friend
Defensive Coordinator: Tyson Summers
Fort Collins, CO Hughes Stadium (32,500)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Savannah State
12 Minnesota
19 vs. Colorado #
26 at UTSA

OCTOBER
3 at Utah State
10 Boise State
17 Air Force
31 San Diego State

NOVEMBER
7 at Wyoming
14 UNLV
21 at New Mexico
28 at Fresno State

#Denver, CO

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Aug.	29	vs. Colorado %	W	31-17
Sept.	6	at Boise State	L	24-37
Sept.	13	UC Davis	W	49-21
Sept.	27	at Boston College	W	24-21
Oct.	4	Tulsa	W	42-17
Oct.	11	at Nevada	W	31-24
Oct.	18	Utah State	W	16-13
Oct.	25	Wyoming	W	45-31
Nov.	1	at San Jose State	W	38-31
Nov.	8	Hawaii	W	49-22
Nov.	22	New Mexico	W	58-20
Nov.	28	at Air Force	L	24-27
Dec.	20	vs. Utah #	L	10-45

%Denver #Las Vegas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darnell Thompson, DT, Raleigh, NC*
2. Braylin Scott, S, Bakersfield, CA
3. Richard King, DE, Aurora, CO
4. Isaiah Matthews, RB, Redding, CA
5. Olabisi Johnson, WR, Lakewood, CO
6. JC Robles, QB, Visalia, CA
7. Colby Meeks, OL, Orlando, FL
8. Deshon Mayes, LB, Arvada, CO*
9. Max McDonald, LB, Fort Collins, CO
10. Salofi Gaoa, OL, Fort Collins, CO

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

13.4

Yards per target on passes to Rashard Higgins in 2014. Of 63 players with 100+ targets, no one else averaged more than 12.2.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	33.9 ppg	2	30
Rushing	159.3 ypg	8	69
Passing	321.6 ypg	1	8
Total	480.9 ypg	2	18
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	25.1 ppg	4	44
Rushing	200.8 ypg	7	96
Passing	224.2 ypg	4	56
Total	425.0 ypg	7	85
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+2	+0.15	5	53

OFFENSE Quarterback Garrett Grayson, who rewrote Colorado State's passing record book, is gone, as is last year's leading rusher, Dee Hart. There's a new coach in Mike Bobo and a new offense he brought with him from Georgia to learn. But three starters on the offensive line are back, as is receiver Rashard Higgins. A finalist for the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's outstanding receiver last year, Higgins led the nation in receiving yards (1,750) and touchdown catches (17).

Sophomore quarterback Nick Stevens, last year's backup, picked up the new offense quickly during spring practices and seemed to have a pretty good grasp of what he'll be expected to do this fall. The quarterbacks in Bobo's pro-style offense have to make a number of reads at the line of scrimmage to get the offense into the right play based on what the defense is showing.

Fullbacks have returned to the CSU offense in an effort to build a powerful ground game that will wear opponents down. Sophomore Dalyn Dawkins, a transfer from Purdue, impressed coaches with his toughness this spring and could emerge as the primary running back over returnees Treyous Jarrells (87 carries for 450 yards and six touchdowns in 2014) and Jasen Oden (46 carries, 276 yards, two touchdowns), both seniors.

The Rams have two of the top tight ends in the Mountain West in seniors Steven Walker, a returning all-conference performer, and Kivon Cartwright.

DEFENSE The Rams are moving from a 3-4 base to a 4-3 under new coordinator Tyson Summers, who directed one of the nation's top defensive units last year at UCF. The biggest change, players say, is that defensive linemen are being asked to make plays themselves instead of filling gaps so the linebackers can come in and make the tackles.

The Rams return four starters in the secondary, where senior safeties Kevin Pierre-Louis (85 tackles) and Trent Matthews (54 tackles) and junior nickel back Preston Hodges (69 tackles) are the top returning tacklers on the defense. Junior cornerback Tyree Simmons had a strong spring.

The strength of the defense, though, is likely to be the linebackers, Bobo says. Juniors Kevin Davis and Deionte Clyburn played a lot as backups last fall, and sophomore Kiel Robinson was a top performer in spring drills. Senior Cory James returns on the outside, where he has 21 sacks over the past three seasons, including a team-leading 6.5 in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Junior punter Hayden Hunt returns after averaging 43.8 yards a kick last season. But the Rams have to replace kicker Jared Roberts, who scored 270 points over the past four seasons and set a Mountain West record by making 111 consecutive PATs. Deointe Gaines is back to return kicks after averaging 24.9 yards as a true freshman, and senior Joe Hansley averaged 9.7 yards on six punt returns last season. Bobo retained three of former coach Jim McElwain's assistants, including special teams coordinator Jeff Hammerschmidt. So the Rams won't be making the kind of wholesale changes in the kicking game that they're making on offense and defense.

FINAL ANALYSIS It will be hard to match the success the Rams had last season, when they won nine games in a row and posted only the fifth 10-win season in school history. There's bound to be a drop-off as they learn new schemes and replace key players. McElwain left the program in good shape, though, with solid depth at most positions and some talented players who are ready to step into starring roles. A third consecutive bowl appearance is well within reach.



RASHARD HIGGINS

"They lost a lot of seniors, and I loved Garrett Grayson. The old staff thought Coleman Key was going to be good."

– An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	82	**Rashard Higgins (Jr.)**	84	Xavier Williams (So.)
WR	25	**Joe Hansley (Sr.)**	11	Jordon Vaden (Jr.)
LT	71	**Sam Carlson (Sr.)**	60	Trae Moxley (So.)
LG	76	Nick Callender (Jr.)	52	Blake Nowland (So.)
C	77	Jake Bennett (So.)	72	**Kevin O'Brien (Sr.)**
RG	54	**Fred Zerblis (Jr.)**	73	Tom Rivera (Jr.)
RT	61	Zack Golditch (So.)	70	Jordan Benson (Fr.)
TE	30	**Steven Walker (Sr.)**	86	Kivon Cartwright (Sr.)
QB	7	Nick Stevens (So.)	12	Coleman Key (Fr.)
FB	32	Nolan Peralta (Jr.)	45	Nu'uvali Fa'apito (Sr.)
RB	15	Dalyn Dawkins (So.)	3	Treyous Jarrells (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	4	Steve0 Michel (Sr.)	9	Martavius Foster (Sr.)
DT	68	**Justin Hansen (Sr.)**		Darnell Thompson (So.)
DT	93	**Terry Jackson (Sr.)**	92	Josh Lovingood (So.)
DE	90	**Joe Kawulok (Sr.)**	98	Johnny Schupp (Jr.)
LB	31	**Cory James (Sr.)**	36	Bryan Ohene-Gyeni (Jr.)
LB	33	Kevin Davis (Jr.)	55	Josh Watson (Fr.)
LB	12	Deonte Clyburn (Jr.)	15	Kiel Robinson (So.)
CB	5	**Tyree Simmons (Jr.)**	13	DeAndre Elliott (Sr.)
CB	24	**Preston Hodges (Jr.)**	29	Justin Sweet (So.)
S	26	**Kevin Pierre-Louis (Sr.)**	20	Willie Udofia (Sr.)
S	16	**Trent Matthews (Sr.)**	8	Jake Schlager (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Wyatt Bryan (Fr.)	KR	2	Deionte Gaines (So.)
P	49	Hayden Hunt (Jr.)	PR	25	Joe Hansley (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Stevens, 25-15-136-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Treyous Jarrells, 87 att., 450 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Rashard Higgins, 96 rec., 1,750 yds., 17 TDs
Tackles: Kevin Pierre-Louis, 85
Sacks: Cory James, 6.5
Interceptions: Trent Matthews, 3; Tyree Simmons, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

NEW MEXICO LOBOS

National Forecast: 96
MW Mountain Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Bob Davie
Record at School: 11-26 (3 years)
Career Record: 46-51 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob DeBesse
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Cosgrove
Albuquerque, NM
University Stadium (39,224)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Mississippi Valley State
12 Tulsa
18 at Arizona State
26 at Wyoming

OCTOBER
3 New Mexico State
10 at Nevada
17 Hawaii
24 at San José State

NOVEMBER
7 Utah State
14 at Boise State
21 Colorado State
28 Air Force

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Aug.	30	UTEP	L	24-31
Sept.	6	Arizona State	L	23-58
Sept.	20	at New Mexico State	W	38-35
Sept.	26	Fresno State	L	24-35
Oct.	4	at UTSA	W	21-9
Oct.	10	San Diego State	L	14-24
Oct.	18	at Air Force	L	31-35
Nov.	1	at UNLV	W	31-28
Nov.	8	Boise State	L	49-60
Nov.	15	at Utah State	L	21-28
Nov.	22	at Colorado State	L	20-58
Nov.	29	Wyoming	W	36-30

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Austin Apodaca, QB, Longmont, CO*
2. Savon Rollison, WR, Dallas, TX
3. Chris Lewis, DT, Riverside, CA *
4. Blair Manly, CB, Albuquerque, NM
5. Beau Hott, OL, Plano, TX
6. Delane Hart-Johnson, WR, Philadelphia, PA*
7. Ewing Simmons, DE, Stockton, CA*
8. Q' Drennan, ATH, El Paso, TX
9. Alex Hart, LB, Prior Lake, MN
10. Charlie Grammel, G, Frisco, TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

6.82

Yards per play allowed by New Mexico in 2014. That was the third-worst average in FBS but the best yet for Bob Davie at UNM.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	27.7 ppg	5	71
Rushing	310.4 ypg	1	4
Passing	89.1 ypg	12	123
Total	399.5 ypg	5	64
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	35.9 ppg	11	110
Rushing	269.0 ypg	11	122
Passing	250.0 ypg	9	92
Total	519.0 ypg	12	124
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+1	+0.08	6	56

OFFENSE When there are questions at quarterback, it seldom bodes well. For New Mexico, however, the consequences of not having a locked-in starter might not be as damaging as for most teams, thanks to a rushing attack that averaged over 300 yards per game last season. Four offensive linemen with starting experience return, as does 1,000-yard rusher Jhurell Pressley.

The challenge for coach Bob Davie is to complement the option-oriented attack from the Pistol formation with a passing game that can be counted on. Lamar Jordan started the final four games of 2014 and played in seven others, and his ability to run (612 yards, 5.1 yards per carry) is superior to his ability to throw (53 percent completions, six TDs, five INTs). Still, Davie likes Jordan's competitiveness, which showed itself in the two fourth-quarter road comebacks he engineered.

Jordan's competition is Austin Apodaca, a junior college transfer who originally signed with Washington State. Apodaca is a pure passer who has never run much. At Mesa Community College in 2014, he threw for more yards (2,534) and touchdowns (27) than New Mexico has in the past two seasons combined. The hope is that one of the two quarterbacks gives an untested receiving corps more opportunity to shine and gives the offense a chance to stretch the field and convert more on third down.

DEFENSE In an effort to aid a pass defense that was ranked 92nd in the nation last season, New Mexico is switching to a 3-3-5 base formation. The fifth defensive back, or "Lobo," will be manned by either Ricky Bennett (who saw action in all 11 games as a backup in 2014) or Lee Crosby (who redshirted after a two-year stint in junior college). Both are physical defensive backs who should be able to provide ample run support.

Corners Cranston Jones and Jadon Boatwright both have starting experience, and Isaiah Brown has shown flashes. Safety Markel Byrd is a returning starter but is behind Ryan Santos on the depth chart. The defense's best player, linebacker Dakota Cox, is hoping to be ready for the season-opener after tearing his ACL in November. Cox led the nation in tackles per game (12.9) as a sophomore before his injury. Returning starters Kimmie Carson and Donnie White will fill out the other two linebacker spots as New Mexico goes from starting four to three.

The defensive line welcomes back some experience. End Nik D'Avanzo is the top player on the line, while William Udeh and Cole Juarez form a strong nose tackle combo.

SPECIAL TEAMS Kickoff returns have been a specialty for New Mexico since Davie took over. The Lobos have returned seven for scores in the last three years, including two last season. Speedy Ridge Jones and Carlos Wiggins figure to man those duties. Zack Rogers handled punting (42.6-yard average) and field goal duties (5-for-8) last season. Kickoff specialist Jason Sanders appears ready to take over field-goal duties, which would allow Rogers to focus on punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS New Mexico faces five teams that won four or fewer games last season, plus FCS member Mississippi Valley State, so getting to six wins is not an impossible task. Should Apodaca adjust to the running portion of the offense and create a legitimate passing attack, New Mexico is going to score enough to win some games.

Defensively, the team gave up more than 28 points per game against unranked opponents, a number that simply has to come down. A bowl game is the ceiling for this year's team, but it is a ceiling that at least appears to be reachable for the first time in the Davie era.


JHURELL PRESSLEY

"They're just talent-deficient right now on defense. They just don't have the players to contend in this league."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	24	Carlos Wiggins (Sr.)	81	Marquis Bundy (Sr.)
WR	28	Dameon Gamblin (Jr.)	82	Matt Quarells (Fr.)
LT	**75**	**Reno Henderson (Jr.)**	67	Andrew Aqua (Jr.)
LG	**51**	**Eden Mahina (Sr.)**	59	Toye Adewon (So.)
C	**62**	**Garrett Adcock (Jr.)**	55	Aaron Jenkins (Fr.)
RG	79	Bryan Oldenkamp (Sr.)	61	Darian Allen (Jr.)
RT	56	Johnny Vizcaino (Jr.)	76	Dillon Romine (Sr.)
TE	**80**	**Reece White (Sr.)**	48	Chris Edling (Sr.)
QB	13	Lamar Jordan (So.)		Austin Apodaca (So.)
TB	**7**	**Teriyon Gipson (Jr.)**	25	David Anaya (Sr.)
RB	6	Jhurell Pressley (Sr.)	4	Romell Jordan (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**91**	**Nik D'Avanzo (Jr.)**	98	Kene Okonkwo (So.)
NT	52	Cole Juarez (Sr.)	92	William Udeh (Jr.)
DE	95	Garrett Hughes (So.)	59	Chris Lee (Sr.)
LB	**54**	**Donnie White (Jr.)**	9	Richard Winston (Sr.)
LB	**49**	**Dakota Cox (Jr.)**	32	Michael Arredondo (Sr.)
LB	**2**	**Kimmie Carson (So.)**	20	Ryan Langford (Sr.)
CB	**3**	**Cranston Jones (Sr.)**	17	Jadon Boatright (Jr.)
CB	4	Isaiah Brown (Jr.)	27	Bijon Parker (Fr.)
S	19	Ricky Bennett (So.)	5	Lee Crosby (Jr.)
S	12	Ryan Santos (Jr.)	**22**	**Markel Byrd (So.)**
S	14	Daniel Henry (Sr.)	30	Juwan Jones (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Jason Sanders (So.)	KR	24	Carlos Wiggins (Sr.)
P	90	Zack Rogers (Sr.)	PR	22	Chris Davis (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Lamar Jordan, 112-59-895-5, 6 TDs
Rushing: Jhurell Pressley, 114 att., 1,083 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Teriyon Gipson, 15 rec., 123 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Dakota Cox, 116
Sacks: Nik D'Avanzo, 4.5
Interceptions: Cranston Jones, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

University of New Mexico Athletics

UTAH STATE AGGIES

National Forecast: 51
MW Mountain Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Matt Wells
Record at School: 19-9 (2 years)
Career Record: 19-9 (2 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Josh Heupel, Luke Wells
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Clune
Logan, UT • Maverick Stadium (25,513)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
3	Southern Utah
11	at Utah
19	at Washington
OCTOBER	
3	Colorado State
11	at Fresno State
16	Boise State
23	at San Diego State
30	Wyoming
NOVEMBER	
7	at New Mexico
14	at Air Force
21	Nevada
28	BYU

2014 RESULTS (10-4, 6-2)

Aug.	31	at Tennessee	L	7-38
Sept.	6	Idaho State	W	40-20
Sept.	13	Wake Forest	W	36-24
Sept.	20	at Arkansas State	L	14-21
Oct.	3	at BYU	W	35-20
Oct.	11	Air Force	W	34-16
Oct.	18	at Colorado State	L	13-16
Oct.	25	UNLV	W	34-20
Nov.	1	at Hawaii	W	35-14
Nov.	7	at Wyoming	W	20-3
Nov.	15	New Mexico	W	28-21
Nov.	21	San Jose State	W	41-7
Nov.	29	at Boise State	L	19-50
Dec.	20	vs. UTEP #	W	21-6

#New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cameron Haney, CB, Los Angeles, CA
2. Wesley Bailey, DB, Huntsville, AL*
3. Daniel Langi, LB, South Jordan, UT
4. Joe Riggins, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
5. Wade Meacham, OL, Layton, UT
6. Cade Smith, QB, Salem, OR
7. Chad Artist, WR, Logan, UT
8. Gerold Bright, WR, Pensacola, FL
9. Viliamu Auwae, OL, Kapolei, HI
10. Devante Mays, RB, Livingston, TX*

*junior college transfer

Points allowed per trip inside the 40-yard line by the USU defense. 11th in the country. Unfortunately, the Aggies' offense ranked 102nd.

STAT CORNER
3.64

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	26.9 ppg	6	78
Rushing	180.1 ypg	7	49
Passing	198.7 ypg	8	92
Total	378.8 ypg	11	83
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	19.7 ppg	1	12
Rushing	130.7 ypg	1	24
Passing	225.4 ypg	5	57
Total	356.1 ypg	2	30
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+9	+0.64	2	20

OFFENSE Once again the Aggies return a wealth of experience on offense, especially at quarterback. While one signal-caller who had started 11 games over the past two seasons left the team during spring drills, two more are back who have won bowl games — Chuckie Keeton and Kent Myers. Add to the mix Oregon transfer Damion Hobbs, and that position looks loaded. "We are strong at quarterback," Utah State head coach Matt Wells says. "We've got game-day experience. We've got guys that have won games. Our team believes in all those guys. It is a position of strength."

Myers, who was the New Mexico Bowl Offensive MVP in 2014 as a true freshman, spent half of spring at wide receiver. When Darrell Garretson left the team, Myers moved back to quarterback and into the battle to back up Keeton, a Heisman Trophy candidate two years ago.

Four linemen are back, and several key recruits were added to strengthen the position. Protecting the quarterback and opening holes for the running game should be a strength.

As for who will be carrying the ball, it could turn into a committee. LaJuan Hunt led the team as a freshman a year ago.

Three of the top four wide receivers from 2014 are back in JoJo Natson, Devonte Robinson and Hunter Sharp, along with tight end Wyatt Houston.

"You expect a lot out of guys that have started," Wells says. "I expect them to play at a very high level pretty early in the season."

DEFENSE Despite resting a handful of players who have started during spring to heal from surgeries or lingering injuries, this side of the ball showed its depth in scrimmages. It would seem the defense, which finished last season among the national leaders in many statistical categories, could be even better in 2015.

Like the quarterbacks, the Aggies had a number of linebackers go down with injuries but just kept reloading. Now there is a group that will be fighting for playing time. Nick Vigil and Kyler Fackrell have earned all-league honors, while LT Filiaga and Torrey Green were able to step in and play significant time last year.

"I think we are talented at linebacker," Wells says. "Linebacker should be the strength of our defense."

The secondary lost two safeties to graduation but returns a group of athletes who saw lots of time in nickel and dime packages. Cornerbacks Jalen Davis and Daniel Gray, along with safety Devin Centers, give the team experience.

Jordan Nielsen is the most experienced player in the defensive trenches.

SPECIALISTS The punter and kicker who handled most of the field goals are gone. Jake Thompson has kicked off and been used to attempt longer field goals. Long snapper Salanoa Galea'i is also back.

FINAL ANALYSIS Not even a plethora of key injuries derailed the Aggies from going to their fourth straight bowl game and emerging victorious for the third consecutive year. One has to wonder how good they could have been had they stayed healthy. Most of those athletes are back, and a strong recruiting class has been added.

With the success Utah State has enjoyed, several key assistants left for bigger schools. The Aggies will have new coordinators on both sides of the ball in Josh Heupel (offense) and Kevin Clune (defense), who was a position coach at USU several years ago. Wells believes the new coordinators have added to the program and brought a new and different enthusiasm.

Extending the school record streak of bowl appearances is nearly a given.



CHUCKIE KEETON

"The most consistently good team in the league. They've had injury after injury for two years and still won 19 games."
— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	**Hunter Sharp (Sr.)**	88	Braelon Roberts (So.)
WR	9	**JoJo Natson (Sr.)**	3	**Devonte Robinson (Sr.)**
WR	11	Brandon Swindall (Sr.)	82	Andrew Rodriguez (Jr.)
LT	65	Austin Albrecht (Jr.)	66	KJ Uluave (Fr.)
LG	72	**Tyshon Mosley (So.)**	74	Jude Hockel (Jr.)
C	59	**Austin Stephens (Jr.)**	64	Jarom Ioane (So.)
RG	75	**Taani Fisilau (Sr.)**	71	Ben Wysocki (Sr.)
RT	76	**Jake Simonich (Jr.)**	73	Preston Brooksby (Jr.)
TE	83	**Wyatt Houston (Jr.)**	44	Landon Horne (Jr.)
QB	16	Chuckie Keeton (Sr.)	8	Damion Hobbs (So.)
RB	21	LaJuan Hunt (So.)	20	Rashad Hall (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	52	John Taylor (Sr.)	98	Edmund Faimalo (Jr.)
NG	70	Travis Seefeldt (Sr.)	51	David Moala (Sr.)
DE	97	**Jordan Nielsen (Sr.)**	95	Ricky Ali'ifua (Jr.)
OLB	9	Kyler Fackrell (Sr.)	12	Alex Huerta (So.)
ILB	41	**Nick Vigil (Jr.)**	45	Jarom Baldomero (Sr.)
ILB	5	**LT Filiaga (Sr.)**	16	Anthony Williams (Sr.)
OLB	39	**Torrey Green (Sr.)**	19	Ian Togiai (So.)
CB	13	**Jalen Davis (So.)**	1	**Daniel Gray (Jr.)**
CB	17	Deshane Hines (Sr.)	15	Tyler Floyd (Sr.)
SS	24	Marwin Evans (Sr.)	10	Kelvin Lee (Sr.)
FS	37	Devin Centers (Jr.)	2	Marquan Ellison (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Jake Thompson (Jr.)	KR	26	Kennedy Williams (Jr.)
P	89	Aaron Dalton (Fr.)	PR	9	JoJo Natson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Darell Garretson, 135-91-1,140-3, 8 TDs
Rushing: LaJuan Hunt, 111 att., 540 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Hunter Sharp, 66 rec., 939 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Nick Vigil, 123
Sacks: Nick Vigil, 7.0
Interceptions: Jalen Davis, 2; Deshane Hines, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

WYOMING COWBOYS

National Forecast: 95
MW Mountain Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Craig Bohl
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 108-40 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Vigen
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Stanard
Laramie, WY
War Memorial Stadium (29,181)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 North Dakota
12 Eastern Michigan
19 at Washington State
26 New Mexico

OCTOBER
3 at Appalachian State
10 at Air Force
17 Nevada
24 at Boise State
30 at Utah State

NOVEMBER
7 Colorado State
14 at San Diego State
28 UNLV

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Aug.	30	Montana	W	17-12
Sept.	6	Air Force	W	17-13
Sept.	13	at Oregon	L	14-48
Sept.	20	Florida Atlantic	W	20-19
Sept.	27	at Michigan State	L	14-56
Oct.	11	at Hawaii	L	28-38
Oct.	18	San Jose State	L	20-27
Oct.	25	at Colorado State	L	31-45
Nov.	1	at Fresno State	W	45-17
Nov.	7	Utah State	L	3-20
Nov.	22	Boise State	L	14-63
Nov.	29	at New Mexico	L	30-36

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justice Murphy, WR, Vancouver, WA
2. Kellen Overstreet, RB, Hamilton, MO
3. Carl Granderson, DE, Sacramento, CA
4. C.J. Johnson, WR, Bellevue, NE
5. Dameko Doddles, WR, Oklahoma City, OK
6. Tavita Faaiu, DE, San Francisco, CA*
7. Antonio Hull, CB, Diamond Bar, CA
8. Zach Wallace, OT, Lake Zurich, IL
9. Davion Freeman, CB, Del City, OK
10. Christian Irving, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL

*junior college transfer

Games lost by Wyoming last season. Cowboys coach Craig Bohl lost a total of two games in his final three seasons at North Dakota State.

STAT CORNER
8

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	21.1 ppg	10	107
Rushing	153.2 ypg	9	77
Passing	227.8 ypg	5	67
Total	380.9 ypg	10	81
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	32.8 ppg	10	100
Rushing	203.0 ypg	9	101
Passing	227.8 ypg	6	61
Total	430.8 ypg	8	89
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-2	-0.17	8	76

OFFENSE There should be more familiarity on offense as coach Craig Bohl enters his second season, but there will be a new quarterback. Senior Cameron Coffman was named the starter after the Cowboys' first scrimmage of spring drills. The Indiana transfer completed 60.7 percent of his passes for 2,734 yards with 15 touchdowns and 11 interceptions as a sophomore with the Hoosiers in 2012 but played in only three games as a junior.

Wyoming may have the top running back duo in the Mountain West in senior Shaun Wick and sophomore Brian Hill. Wick missed most of four games, but the pair combined for 1,549 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. The Cowboys also use fullbacks, and the top two are sophomore Drew Van Maanen and junior Jordan Ellis.

Juniors Tanner Gentry and Jake Maulhardt are the Cowboys' leading returning receivers. The duo combined for 53 catches for 709 yards and three touchdowns in 2014. Wyoming needs more depth, and that will have to come from players who are new to the college game. Junior Jacob Hollister, a former quarterback, led all tight ends last season with 17 catches for 244 yards and two touchdowns.

Three starting offensive linemen return, led by junior guard Chase Roullier, an honorable mention All-Mountain West pick last season.

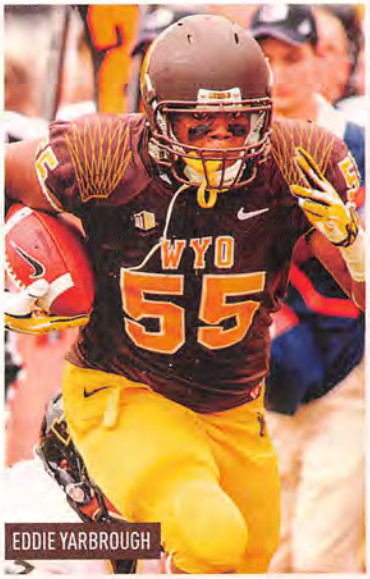
DEFENSE The front four looks to be the strength of a unit that allowed 32.8 points and 430.8 yards per game last season. Senior defensive end Eddie Yarbrough was a first-team All-MW selection after leading the way with 10.5 tackles for a loss and four sacks. Senior Siaosi Hala'api'api mans the other defensive end spot, and juniors Uso Olive and Chase Appleby figure to be the top two guys inside.

Bohl says Wyoming is "almost starting at ground zero" at linebacker. Junior Lucas Wacha is the only experienced player on the roster. The younger brother of St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Michael Wacha has 140 tackles in the last two years. Wacha could play in the middle or outside but is undersized at about 220 pounds. Senior Malkaam Muhammad dislocated his elbow last season and missed most of spring with an injured shoulder. Others in the mix are playing the position for the first time. Former safeties Will Tutein and Tim Kamana both figure to play outside. Junior Eric Nzeocha was moved from tight end and could play in the middle, as could senior walk-on Devin McKenna.

The secondary also has plenty of uncertainty. Senior cornerback Tyran Finley led the team with only two interceptions, both in the same game. Sophomore Robert Priester likely will be the other starting corner despite undergoing offseason knee surgery. The two safety spots will be manned by new faces. Redshirt freshmen Chavez Pownell Jr. and Adam Pilapil (a walk-on) had good springs. Senior Chad Reese, who returned after a year away, and former running back D.J. May are also in the mix.

SPECIALISTS Junior punter Ethan Wood enters his third season on the job and averaged 41.4 yards last season. Who will handle the kicking duties is uncertain. Junior Justin Martin is in the mix, and true freshman walk-on Tristan Bailey should compete for the job in fall camp. Wick, Hill, May and Priester all will compete to be Wyoming's kickoff and punt returners.

FINAL ANALYSIS Wyoming is still a work in progress after switching offensive and defensive philosophies when Bohl was hired. More development should occur this season with a more manageable schedule, but the Cowboys are still a couple of years away from being serious contenders in the Mountain West.



EDDIE YARBROUGH

"Craig Bohl is one of the better coaches in the league. ... They're tough, they don't beat themselves."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	4	Tanner Gentry (Jr.)	82	Tanner Simpson (Jr.)
WR	83	Jake Maulhardt (Jr.)	3	Joseph Parker (Fr.)
LT	59	**Ryan Cummings (So.)**	62	Eli Moody (Jr.)
LG	73	**Chase Roullier (Jr.)**	69	Richard Bettencourt (Fr.)
C	63	**Rafe Kiely (Sr.)**	64	Charlie Renfree (Fr.)
RG	51	Troy Boyland (Sr.)	67	Cole Turner (Fr.)
RT	58	Taylor Knestis (So.)	75	Kurtis Stirneman (So.)
TE	88	Jacob Hollister (Jr.)	84	Grant Lewis (Fr.)
QB	2	Cameron Coffman (Sr.)	1	Josh Allen (So.)
FB	36	**Drew Van Maanen (So.)**	48	Jordan Ellis (Jr.)
RB	21	**Shaun Wick (Sr.)**	8	Brian Hill (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	55	**Eddie Yarbrough (Sr.)**	68	Trevor Meader (So.)
DT	90	**Uso Olive (Jr.)**	96	Sidney Malauulu (Fr.)
DT	57	Chase Appleby (Jr.)	98	Dalton Fields (So.)
DE	34	Siaosi Hala'api'api (Sr.)	93	Jonathan Kongbo (Fr.)
OLB	23	**Tim Kamana (So.)**	9	Malkaam Muhammad (Sr.)
MLB	11	Eric Nzeocha (Jr.)	44	Devin McKenna (Sr.)
OLB	45	Lucas Wacha (Jr.)	36	Will Tutein (Jr.)
CB	5	Tyran Finley (Sr.)	6	Ryon'e Winters (So.)
CB	35	**Robert Priester (So.)**	26	C.J. Jennings (Fr.)
S	31	Chavez Pownell Jr. (Fr.)	22	Marcus Epps (Fr.)
S	32	Adam Pilapil (Fr.)	24	Chad Reese (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Justin Martin (Jr.)	KR	7	D.J. May (Jr.)
P	41	Ethan Wood (Jr.)	PR	7	D.J. May (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tom Thornton, 10-4-50-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Brian Hill, 145 att., 796 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Tanner Gentry, 32 rec., 435 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Eddie Yarbrough, 63
Sacks: Eddie Yarbrough, 4.0
Interceptions: Tyran Finley, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Wyoming Athletics

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

National Forecast: 101
MW West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Tim DeRuyter
Record at School: 26-14 (3 years)
Career Record: 27-14 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Schramm
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Toth
Fresno, CA • Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Abilene Christian
12 at Ole Miss
19 Utah
26 at San Jose State

OCTOBER
3 at San Diego State
10 Utah State
16 UNLV
24 at Air Force

NOVEMBER
6 Nevada
14 at Hawaii
21 at BYU
28 Colorado State

2014 RESULTS (6-8, 5-3)

Aug.	30	at USC	L	13-52
Sept.	6	at Utah	L	27-59
Sept.	13	Nebraska	L	19-55
Sept.	20	Southern Utah	W	56-16
Sept.	26	at New Mexico	W	35-24
Oct.	3	San Diego State	W	24-13
Oct.	10	at UNLV (ot)	L	27-30
Oct.	17	at Boise State	L	27-37
Nov.	1	Wyoming	L	17-45
Nov.	8	San Jose State	W	38-24
Nov.	22	at Nevada	W	40-20
Nov.	29	Hawaii	W	28-21
Dec.	6	at Boise State %	L	14-28
Dec.	24	vs. Rice #	L	6-30

%MW Championship #Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chason Virgil, QB, West Mesquite, TX
2. Bryson Oglesby, RB, Sugar Land, TX
3. Mike Bell, S, Moreno Valley, CA
4. A.J. Greeley, CB, Fresno, CA
5. Isaiah Trevino, T, Kingsburg, CA
6. Jared Rice, TE, Modesto, CA
7. Donnie Greene, OL, Upland, CA
8. James Bailey, OLB, Austin, TX
9. Nela Otukolo, LB, Las Vegas, NV
10. Zack Kinninger, T, Cypress, TX

STAT CORNER

5.2

Yards per play averaged by the Fresno State offense in 2014 (11th in the MW), down from a league-best 6.5 in 2013.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	26.5 ppg	7	82
Rushing	182.4 ypg	6	44
Passing	223.7 ypg	6	71
Total	406.1 ypg	4	59
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	32.4 ppg	9	99
Rushing	201.9 ypg	8	98
Passing	254.1 ypg	10	96
Total	456.0 ypg	10	108
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-7	-0.50	9	103

OFFENSE Finding Derek Carr's successor at quarterback was supposed to be last year's storyline. Twelve months later, the Bulldogs are still searching. It won't be Brian Burrell. Fresno State's primary starter in 2014 opted not to return, leaving the passing game in the hands of a sophomore (Zack Greenlee), a redshirt freshman (Kilton Anderson) and a true freshman who enrolled early (Chason Virgil). That trio shared snaps in the spring with all three getting a chance to direct the first-team offense. Greenlee, who in his lone career start got benched at halftime, looked the sharpest during scrimmages. The battle will resume in August.

Shaky quarterback play was just one reason the Bulldogs ranked ninth in the Mountain West Conference in passing efficiency and last in yards per attempt — and that was with top receiver Josh Harper. With Harper gone and Delvon Hardaway expected to miss the first part of the season after partially tearing his ACL, senior Aaron Peck needs to finally fulfill his potential. A talented group of redshirt freshmen led by KeeSean Johnson and Keyan Williams catching on quickly would also help.

The new quarterback will have the luxury of handing off to senior tailback Marteze Waller, who broke out in a big way a year ago with 1,368 yards and 11 touchdowns. But the 5'11", 210-pounder had better stay healthy, because the only experienced legs behind Waller's belong to the oft-injured Malique Micenheimer. The coaches didn't feel like taking chances in spring and held Waller out of all contact.

Tackles Alex Fifita and Justin Northern and center Bo Bonnheim enter their senior seasons as third-year starters. Fifita is the best of the group, a brawler with nimble feet who projects as an NFL guard.

DEFENSE When a defense that got torched for 32.4 points and 456 yards per game graduates its two best players (Tyeler Davison and Derron Smith), it's time to reevaluate things. So that's what coordinator Nick Toth did. He took 10 of the 11 starting spots and threw them open to competition.

Senior inside linebacker Kyrie Wilson was the one guy spared an audition, but he'll switch to the "Mike" position on the strong side. Look for the athletic 6'2", 238-pounder to make bushels of tackles. Two other presumed starters, outside linebacker Ejiro Ederaine and cornerback Charles Washington, are expected back this fall following offseason surgeries. The health of both is critical.

The coaches are high on Nate Madsen, Davison's successor at nose guard, but other than 292-pound end Claudell Louis there isn't much size up front. Secondary play has been spotty, especially at cornerback, but there's more depth and experience than in recent seasons. The Bulldogs did more tackling this spring, Toth's attempt to fix what has been a glaring weakness.

SPECIALISTS With a walk-on freshman placekicker, Fresno State didn't have a ton of confidence in its kicking game a year ago. So even though Kody Kroening has improved, junior college signee Jimmy Camacho is expected to win the job in fall camp. Senior Garrett Swanson returns at punter and should cede kickoff duties to Camacho. The return game also gets revamped behind redshirt freshmen Jamire Jordan and Williams.

FINAL ANALYSIS Unlike last season, no one's talking about defending (or even winning) a Mountain West championship. Instead, the total focus has been on fundamentals and competition. Normally, that wouldn't bode well for a team's success, but the West Division isn't exactly a juggernaut. If the Bulldogs can avoid an 0–2 start in conference play, they'll remain in contention for the division crown until late November.



MARTEZE WALLER

Peter Brouillet

"They've got talent. They'll be a team that's back in the top half of that division if they can find a quarterback."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	7	**Aaron Peck (Sr.)**	82	Darrell Fuery (So.)	
WR	6	**Delvon Hardaway (So.)**	16	KeeSean Johnson (Fr.)	
WR	4	Keyan Williams (Fr.)	81	Justin Johnson (Sr.)	
LT	76	**Alex Fifita (Sr.)**	71	Bobby Johnson (Fr.)	
LG	79	Aaron Mitchell (So.)	74	Jacob Hicks (Fr.)	
C	60	**Bo Bonnheim (Sr.)**	65	Ben Simonds (Fr.)	
RG	61	Jacob Vazquez (Jr.)	67	Micah St. Andrew (Fr.)	
RT	54	**Justin Northern (Sr.)**	78	David Patterson (So.)	
TE	46	Chad Olsen (So.)	89	Kyle Riddering (Fr.)	
QB	17	Zack Greenlee (So.)	19	Kilton Anderson (Fr.)	
RB	33	**Marteze Waller (Sr.)**	22	Malique Micenheimer (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	90	Claudell Lewis (Sr.)	86	Kyle Hendrickson (Fr.)	
NG	91	Nate Madsen (So.)	95	Ryan Steele (So.)	
DE	96	**Todd Hunt (Sr.)**	97	Gabe Newman (So.)	
OLB	31	**Ejiro Ederaine (Sr.)**	40	Justin Green (So.)	
MLB	17	**Kyrie Wilson (Sr.)**	6	Michael Lazarus (So.)	
MLB	42	Jeff Camilli (Jr.)	30	Xavier Ulutu (So.)	
OLB	56	Tobenna Okeke (So.)	41	Brandon Hughes (Jr.)	
CB	28	**Charles Washington (Sr.)**	25	Anthoula Kelly (Fr.)	
CB	20	**Malcolm Washington (So.)**	2	Jamal Ellis (Jr.)	
SS	5	Dalen Jones (Jr.)		Alan Wright (Jr.)	
FS	15	Stratton Brown (Jr.)	4	Shannon Edwards (Sr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jimmy Camacho (So.)	KR	18	Jamire Jordan (Fr.)
P	49	Garrett Swanson (Sr.)	PR	4	Keyan Williams (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zack Greenlee, 41-18-213-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Marteze Waller, 225 att., 1,368 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Aaron Peck, 32 rec. 419 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Kyrie Wilson, 90
Sacks: Todd Hunt, 2.5
Interceptions: Kyrie Wilson, 2; Charles Washington, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

National Forecast: 114
MW West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Norm Chow
Record at School: 8-29 (3 years)
Career Record: 8-29 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Don Bailey
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Mason
Honolulu, HI • Aloha Stadium (50,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
3	Colorado
12	at Ohio State
19	UC Davis
26	at Wisconsin
OCTOBER	
3	at Boise State
10	San Diego State
17	at New Mexico
24	at Nevada
31	Air Force
NOVEMBER	
7	at UNLV
14	Fresno State
21	San Jose State
28	UL Monroe

2014 RESULTS (4-9, 3-5)

Aug.	30	Washington	L	16-17
Sept.	6	Oregon State	L	30-38
Sept.	13	Northern Iowa	W	27-24
Sept.	20	at Colorado	L	12-21
Oct.	4	at Rice	L	14-28
Oct.	11	Wyoming	W	38-28
Oct.	18	at San Diego State	L	10-20
Oct.	25	Nevada	L	18-26
Nov.	1	Utah State	L	14-35
Nov.	8	at Colorado State	L	22-49
Nov.	15	at San Jose State	W	13-0
Nov.	22	UNLV	W	37-35
Nov.	29	at Fresno State	L	21-28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Solomon Matautia, S, Ewa Beach, HI*
2. DeJaun Butler, CB, Woodland Hills, CA
3. Paul Harris, ATH, Columbus, OH*
4. Melvin Davis, RB, Harbor City, CA*
5. Nikko Taylor, DL, Fontana, CA*
6. Russell Williams, LB, Laguna Creek, CA*
7. J. R. Hensley, OL, Edmond, Okla.
8. Eperone Moananu, OL, Pago Pago, AS
9. Jordan Agasiva, OL, Honolulu, HI
10. Kamuela Borden, DL/OL, Pearl City, HI

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

9

One-possession losses for Hawaii in the last two years. The Warriors have won three such games, one against an FBS opponent.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	20.9 ppg	11	108
Rushing	149.5 ypg	10	83
Passing	214.9 ypg	7	79
Total	364.4 ypg	12	98
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	26.8 ppg	6	64
Rushing	172.3 ypg	5	73
Passing	245.8 ypg	8	89
Total	418.2 ypg	6	82
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-7	-0.54	10	105

OFFENSE The only constant in Hawaii's offense, it seems, has been change. This year, change comes in the form of yet another offensive play caller and, potentially, a fifth different starting quarterback to open the season in the past five years.

This time, the keys have been handed to up-tempo coordinator Don Bailey, who comes over from Idaho State. His Bengals topped the FCS in passing yards per game (348.1) in 2014.

Ikaika Woolsey has started 14 games over two seasons at quarterback, but the battle for the job with senior USC transfer Max Wittek may go well into the summer. Former Colorado State signee Beau Reilly is also in the mix.

The quarterback will operate behind an experienced line that includes 59 starts among Ben Clarke, Dejon Allen, Brenden Urban, Elijah Tupai and John Wa'a. Clarke, the team's best and most versatile lineman, has double-digit starts at both center and tackle.

Steven Lakalaka, who held down the running back position during Joey Iosefa's absences the last two seasons, has the opportunity to take over full time with Iosefa's departure. Pereese Joas and Diocemy Saint Juste provide speedy alternatives to the power running of Lakalaka and junior college transfer Melvin Davis.

If pass catchers Vasquez Haynes and Devan Stubblefield are able to return to health after missing 2014, the Warriors will be set at receiver. Quinton Pedroza and Marcus Kemp had 115 receptions and six touchdowns between them in 2014.

DEFENSE The Warriors lost the teeth of their defense — the front seven — from last season, and regaining some of that bite in a hurry is job one for new defensive coordinator Tom Mason. The mission is given additional urgency by a schedule that sends UH on the road against three very physical top-25 teams — Ohio State, Wisconsin and Boise State — in an early four-week stretch.

Kennedy Tulimasealii is poised for a breakout year, and Luke Shawley should thrive in Mason's scheme of relentless blitzes. But the Warriors need to find a space-eating plug in the middle from among Penitito Faalologo, Kory Rasmussen and incoming transfer Nikko Taylor, as well as depth across the line.

Simon Poti, the Warriors' leading returner in tackles (63), joins Lance Williams and Benetton Fonua in anchoring the linebacking corps.

The Warriors' deepest position appears to be safety, where Trayvon Henderson, Marrell Jackson and Daniel Lewis have 31 career starts among them, and redshirt freshman Dany Mulanga had an eye-opening spring. Returning starters at cornerback Ne'Quan Phillips and Nick Nelson make this a strong secondary.

SPECIALISTS Hawaii will find out just how valuable its two-time team MVP, do-it-all Scott Harding, really was. Harding handled punting, punt returns, was a receiver and also served as a holder for a time. Freshman Alexander Trifonovitch figures to wind up with the punting job, while Aaron Novoa gets first shot at placekicker. Paul Harris, Keelan Ewaliko, Saint Juste and Joas will compete for the return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS This shapes up as the most talented team in head coach Norm Chow's four seasons in the islands, but the Warriors' shaky depth will be sorely tested in a 13-game schedule that is bereft of an open date and includes Colorado, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Boise State in the first five weeks. If they can survive that gauntlet in relative health, there is an outside shot at ending the Warriors' streak of four consecutive losing seasons. If not, then Chow, who is 8–29 in his first head coaching job and has a $200,000 buy-out clause in his contract, likely won't be around to finish his five-year assignment.



QUINTON PEDROZA

"They made a humongous jump on defense, but their coordinator (Kevin Clune) went to Utah State."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Vasquez Haynes (Jr.)	80	Ammon Barker (So.)
WR	5	**Quinton Pedroza (Sr.)**	23	Dylan Collie (Fr.)
WR	14	**Marcus Kemp (Jr.)**	12	Keelan Ewaliko (So.)
LT	51	John Wa'a (So.)	69	Brenden Urban (Sr.)
LG	56	Elijah Tupai (So.)	78	Leo Koloamatangi (Jr.)
C	71	**Ben Clarke (Sr.)**	69	Brenden Urban (Sr.)
RG	50	**Dejon Allen (So.)**	74	RJ Hollis (Jr.)
RT	65	Asotui Eli (Fr.)	72	Matt Norman (Jr.)
TE	87	Harold Moleni (Sr.)	85	Josh Long (Sr.)
QB	13	Max Wittek (Sr.)	11	**Ikaika Woolsey (Jr.)**
RB	4	**Steven Lakalaka (Jr.)**	34	Pereese Joas (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DT	90	**Kennedy Tulimasealii (Jr.)**		Nikko Taylor (Jr.)
NG	54	Penitito Faalologo (So.)	75	Kory Rasmussen (Jr.)
DT	93	Luke Shawley (Sr.)	96	David Manoa (So.)
LB	17	**Lance Williams (Sr.)**	49	Manly Williams (Fr.)
LB	16	Jeremy Castro (So.)	59	Jahlani Tavai (Fr.)
LB	3	**Simon Poti (Sr.)**	28	Julian Gener (Sr.)
LB	36	Benetton Fonua (Sr.)	58	Rashaan Falemalu (Fr.)
CB	1	**Ne'Quan Phillips (Sr.)**	19	Jalen Rogers (Jr.)
CB	20	**Nick Nelson (So.)**	30	Gaetano DeMattei (Sr.)
S	15	Daniel Lewis (So.)	10	Marrell Jackson (Sr.)
S	39	**Trayvon Henderson (Jr.)**	40	Dany Mulanga (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	90	Aaron Novoa (Jr.)	KR	Paul Harris (Jr.)
P		Alexander Trifonovitch (Fr.)	PR	34 Pereese Joas (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ikaika Woolsey, 416-210-2,538-13, 13 TDs
Rushing: Steven Lakalaka, 159 att., 646 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Quinton Pedroza, 59 rec., 674 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Simon Poti, 63
Sacks: Ne'Quan Phillips, 3.0
Interceptions: Trayvon Henderson, 2; Daniel Lewis Jr., 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UH Sports Media Relations

NEVADA WOLF PACK

National Forecast: 91
MW West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Brian Polian
Record at School: 11-14 (2 years)
Career Record: 11-14 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Rolovich
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Boone
Reno, NV • Mackay Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	UC Davis	
12	Arizona	
19	at Texas A&M	
26	at Buffalo	
OCTOBER		
3	UNLV	
10	New Mexico	
17	at Wyoming	
24	Hawaii	
NOVEMBER		
6	at Fresno State	
14	San Jose State	
21	at Utah State	
28	at San Diego State	

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Southern Utah	W	28-19
Sept.	5	Washington State	W	24-13
Sept.	13	at Arizona	L	28-35
Sept.	27	at San Jose State	W	21-10
Oct.	4	Boise State	L	46-51
Oct.	11	Colorado State	L	24-31
Oct.	18	at BYU	W	42-35
Oct.	25	at Hawaii	W	26-18
Nov.	1	San Diego State	W	30-14
Nov.	15	at Air Force	(ot) L	38-45
Nov.	22	Fresno State	L	20-40
Nov.	29	at UNLV	W	49-27
Dec.	20	vs. UL Lafayette #	L	3-16

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dameon Baber, DB, Palmdale, CA
2. Kori Collons, LB, Sacramento, CA
3. Riley Brand, LB, Anaheim, CA
4. Gabe Sewell, LB, St. George, UT
5. Ricky Thomas Jr., LB, Reno, NV
6. Dominic Christian, WR, Chicago, IL
7. Hausia Sekona, DL, Salt Lake City, UT
8. Evan Faunce, TE, Indianapolis, IN*
9. Abiel Taito, ATH, Ewa Beach, HI
10. Baylor Romney, QB, El Paso, TX

*junior college transfer

Yards per play allowed by Nevada in 2014 (93rd in FBS), major improvement over the Wolf Pack's woeful 2013 average (7.12).

STAT CORNER

5.86

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	29.2 ppg	4	61
Rushing	205.5 ypg	5	36
Passing	192.2 ypg	9	96
Total	397.6 ypg	6	68
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	7	68
Rushing	179.5 ypg	6	79
Passing	267.6 ypg	12	109
Total	447.1 ypg	9	100
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+11	+0.85	1	11

OFFENSE With three primary starters in 11 years, Nevada has had uncommon stability at quarterback. Who's next? Well, that remains an open question.

Junior Tyler Stewart is the modest favorite in a three-way competition to start the season. Stewart is the only quarterback with college game experience on the Nevada roster, completing 21-of-37 passes for 251 yards and three touchdowns in his career. But Stewart lacks the mobility that has become the calling card of Nevada quarterbacks in the Pistol offense.

He could cede the position to either sophomore Danté Mayes, who has plenty of mobility and impressed during spring workouts, or redshirt freshman Hunter Fralick. Fralick was a prized local recruit last year, and the dual-threat might have the highest upside of the three.

Even with Cody Fajardo, the passing game struggled at times last year, averaging 99 yards per game during a 1–2 finish. Part of that can be attributed to the loss of Hasaan Henderson, a big-bodied receiver whose season ended with a scary head and spinal concussion. But the all-conference candidate is healthy and appears ready to lead a receiving unit that has just three upperclassmen.

Don Jackson, who amassed 957 yards and seven scores on 216 carries, and sophomore James Butler, who ran for 635 yards and five scores on 140 carries, should take pressure off the passing game. But they'll need holes from a front that is a work in progress. Two starters return from an offensive line that was inconsistent last year, and questions remain at center and right tackle.

DEFENSE The front seven is a clear strength with five starters returning. The Pack essentially have four starting linebackers at three spots with Jordan Dobrich, Matthew Lyons and Bryan Lane all returning. Faigofie Faaituala steps in as the fourth backer, but Nevada will need to fill the leadership void from the departed starter Jon McNeal.

On the line, senior end Ian Seau (nephew of late NFL Hall of Famer Junior Seau) had a breakout season in 2014, leading the team in sacks (8.5) and tackles for a loss (10.5). Lenny Jones will anchor the other end of the line, and fellow senior Rykeem Yates is among the best tackles in the league. The team is high on redshirt freshmen Malik Reed and Korey Rush, who will get some time along with emerging sophomore Patrick Choudja.

Nevada will need that front seven to produce a steady pass rush because the secondary is very young and inexperienced. All four starting spots will be up for grabs in fall camp. Kendall Johnson played at corner as a true freshman last year and has moved inside to safety this season, with redshirt freshman Asauni Rufus and sophomore Teré Calloway battling for time. Junior Randy Uzoma had a strong spring and appears ready to ascend to a starting spot at corner, and redshirt freshman Elijah Moody could lock down the other spot.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game should be stable with junior placekicker Brent Zuzo (14-of-18 field goals) and junior punter Alex Boy (44.3 yards per punt) returning. Junior Elijah Mitchell should be the primary kick returner after averaging 24.8 yards per return. The speedy Mitchell is one of the favorites to handle punt returns along with junior wideout Jerico Richardson.

FINAL ANALYSIS With questions at quarterback, offensive line and receiver, Nevada will rely on its improving defense. Still, there will be bumps.

San Diego State is the favorite in the West Division, but Nevada isn't far behind. A favorable home conference slate should help Nevada land a bowl game for the 10th time in 11 years.


IAN SEAU

"They've adapted to (Brian Polian's) system and know what they are doing. They've got it going a little bit."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**12**	**Hasaan Henderson (Jr.)**	29	Malcom Lee (Fr.)	
WR	**84**	**Jerico Richardson (Jr.)**	82	Tucker Melcher (So.)	
WR	80	Wyatt Demps (So.)	87	Brayden Sanchez (Jr.)	
LT	**73**	**Austin Corbett (So.)**	79	Jacob Henry (Jr.)	
LG	60	Adam Khouri (So.)	53	Derrick Stom (Jr.)	
C	72	Jeremy Macauley (Jr.)	69	Thomas Newton (So.)	
RG	**61**	**Joey Anglemire (So.)**	53	Derrick Stom (Jr.)	
RT	70	Humberto Lopez (Jr.)	79	Jacob Henry (Jr.)	
TE	**47**	**Jarred Gipson (Jr.)**	85	Matt Moen (So.)	
QB	15	Tyler Stewart (Jr.)	14	Danté Mayes (So.)	
RB	**6**	**Don Jackson (Sr.)**	20	James Butler (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**8**	**Ian Seau (Sr.)**	90	Malik Reed (Fr.)
NT	97	Salesa Faraimo (Jr.)	71	Kevin Sundberg (So.)
DT	**55**	**Rykeem Yates (Sr.)**	99	Korey Rush (Fr.)
DE	94	Lenny Jones (Sr.)	95	Patrick Choudja (So.)
LB	**25**	**Bryan Lane Jr. (Sr.)**	7	**Duran Workman (Sr.)**
LB	49	Jordan Dobrich (Sr.)	56	Alex Bertrando (Jr.)
LB	**9**	**Matthew Lyons (Sr.)**	5	Faigofie Faaituala (Sr.)
CB	31	Randy Uzoma (Jr.)	35	Ahki Muhammad (Fr.)
CB	18	Elijah Moody (Fr.)	28	Elijah Mitchell (Jr.)
FS	22	Asauni Rufus (Fr.)	30	Teré Calloway (So.)
SS	26	Kendall Johnson (So.)	29	L.J. Jackson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Brent Zuzo (Jr.)	**KR**	28	Elijah Mitchell (Jr.)
P	46	Alex Boy (Jr.)	**PR**	28	Elijah Mitchell (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Hasaan Henderson, 1-0-0-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Don Jackson, 216 att., 957 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Jerico Richardson, 56 rec., 655 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Dobrich, 85
Sacks: Ian Seau, 8.5
Interceptions: Duran Workman, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

John Byrne/Nevada Athletics

SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

National Forecast: 68
MW West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Rocky Long
Record at School: 32-20 (4 years)
Career Record: 97-89 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Horton
Defensive Coordinator: Rocky Long
San Diego, CA • Qualcomm Stadium (54,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	San Diego	
12	at California	
19	South Alabama	
26	at Penn State	
OCTOBER		
3	Fresno State	
10	at Hawaii	
17	at San Jose State	
23	Utah State	
31	at Colorado State	
NOVEMBER		
14	Wyoming	
21	at UNLV	
28	Nevada	

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Northern Arizona	W	38-7
Sept.	6	at North Carolina	L	27-31
Sept.	20	at Oregon State	L	7-28
Sept.	27	UNLV	W	34-17
Oct.	3	at Fresno State	L	13-24
Oct.	10	at New Mexico	W	24-14
Oct.	18	Hawaii	W	20-10
Nov.	1	at Nevada	L	14-30
Nov.	8	Idaho	W	35-21
Nov.	15	at Boise State	L	29-38
Nov.	21	Air Force	W	30-14
Nov.	29	San Jose State	W	38-7
Dec.	23	vs. Navy #	L	16-17

#Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. DeSean Holmes, WR, Pasadena, CA
2. Kyahva Tezino, LB, Los Angeles, CA
3. John Carroll, TE, Santa Clarita, CA
4. Pesi Savea, OL, Kapolei, HI
5. William Tuihalamaka, OL, Calabasas, CA
6. Ron Smith, S, Berkeley, CA
7. Juwan Washington, RB, Kennedale, TX
8. Jatory Sparks-Brown, RB, DeSoto, TX
9. Dwayne Parchment, RB, Fontana, CA
10. Ryan Agnew, QB, Southlake, TX

STAT CORNER

2009

The last time SDSU didn't earn a bowl bid. The Aztecs had played in only four bowls in their history before this five-year streak.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	25.0 ppg	8	88
Rushing	216.1 ypg	3	26
Passing	178.4 ypg	10	106
Total	394.5 ypg	8	71
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	19.8 ppg	2	13
Rushing	153.9 ypg	4	48
Passing	178.5 ypg	2	10
Total	332.5 ypg	1	16
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+4	+0.31	4	43

OFFENSE Transfer quarterback Maxwell Smith distanced himself from second-stringer Christian Chapman and Oregon transfer Jake Rodrigues in spring drills and gives San Diego State an experienced leader. Smith is a former starter at Kentucky and is battled-tested after facing sturdy SEC defenses. He could excel in the Mountain West.

Running back Donnel Pumphrey rushed for a school-record 1,867 yards and 20 touchdowns as a sophomore, and he is on pace to join Marshall Faulk (4,589), Larry Ned (3,562) and Ronnie Hillman (3,243) as the only rushers in school history to reach 3,000 career yards. The 5'9", 170-pound Pumphrey has proven he can carry a huge workload, and San Diego State plans to rely heavily on him again this season.

The Aztecs are hoping that Eric Judge (24 receptions last season) will step up as a go-to receiver, and Lloyd Mills (22) should be the other starter after the dismissal of Larry Clark. The offensive line suffered a blow when starting center Lenicio Noble and backup guard Paul Rodriguez were booted from the squad, but the unit returns starting guards Nico Siragusa and Darrell Greene.

DEFENSE The Aztecs allowed just 19.8 points per game last season and received good news when cornerback J.J. Whittaker and middle linebacker Jake Fely were awarded an extra season of eligibility. Both players missed large parts or all of multiple seasons due to injuries, and the welcome development makes San Diego State's defense even sturdier.

Big-play outside linebacker Calvin Munson is the star of the unit after leading the team with four interceptions and with 10.5 tackles for a loss, including a team-high four sacks. Fely has started 30 career games but was healthy for just three contests last season.

The return of Whittaker (two interceptions) means that all five secondary starters in the Aztecs' 3-3-5 alignment are returning. Cornerback Damontae Kazee broke up 13 passes last season, and safeties Malik Smith (three interceptions), Na'im McGee and Trey Lomax all had solid campaigns in 2014 and should be even better this fall.

Defensive end Alex Barrett had nine tackles for a loss before having his season cut short by a foot injury, and nose tackle Christian Heyward has the potential to mix it up in the interior.

SPECIALISTS Donny Hageman was an improvement over San Diego State's 2013 kicking fiascos, but his 20-of-25 field-goal campaign didn't come without a glitch. Hageman had a chance to be a hero in the Poinsettia Bowl but missed a 34-yarder with 20 seconds left to allow Navy to post a 17–16 victory. He has a solid leg on kickoffs, which often helps with field position. Junior college transfer Tanner Blain likely will be the punter to replace departed Joel Alesi. Mills is a solid punt returner who took one back for a score in 2014.

FINAL ANALYSIS San Diego State has gone to five consecutive bowl games for the first time in program history and has been steady but not spectacular in four seasons under coach Rocky Long's leadership. The seven victories in 2014 were the Aztecs' fewest since 2009 (under Brady Hoke), and there is now an expectation of a winning season and bowl game appearance every year.

If Smith can avoid the injuries that hindered him at Kentucky and can provide the downfield passing attack San Diego State lacked last season, the Aztecs will be a solid threat to reach the Mountain West title game. The defense is strong enough for San Diego State to win the division crown, and there is enough overall talent for the Aztecs to set winning the conference championship as a legitimate goal.



DONNEL PUMPHREY

"How they do it on defense gives them a chance every week. They're different. It's voodoo coming from every direction"

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	81	Eric Judge (Jr.)	85	Mikah Holder (So.)
WR	82	Lloyd Mills (Jr.)	86	Jemond Hazely (Sr.)
LT	75	Kwayde Miller (Jr.)	77	Ryan Pope (So.)
LG	**56**	**Nico Siragusa (Jr.)**		William Tuihalamaka (Fr.)
C	70	Arthur Flores (Jr.)	74	Austin Maass (Jr.)
RG	**72**	**Darrell Greene (Sr.)**	94	Robert Craighead (Sr.)
RT	**71**	**Pearce Slater (Sr.)**	64	Ryan Krum (Jr.)
TE	89	Daniel Brunskill (Jr.)	88	David Wells (So.)
QB	17	Maxwell Smith (Sr.)	10	Christian Chapman (Fr.)
FB	**46**	**Dakota Gordon (Sr.)**	35	Sal Jeppi (Fr.)
RB	**19**	**Donnel Pumphrey (Jr.)**	22	Chase Price (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**99**	**Jon Sanchez (Sr.)**	55	Micah Seau (Jr.)
NT	92	Christian Heyward (Sr.)	65	Sergio Phillips (So.)
DE	**58**	**Alex Barrett (Jr.)**	41	Dakota Turner (So.)
DE	49	Daryl Dunlap (So.)	36	Devante Davis (Sr.)
LB	42	Jake Fely (Sr.)	45	Fred Melifonwu (So.)
LB	**54**	**Calvin Munson (Jr.)**	46	Jay Henderson (So.)
CB	**7**	**J.J. Whittaker (Sr.)**	22	Kalan Montgomery (So.)
CB	**23**	**Damontae Kazee (Jr.)**	13	Pierre Romain (Sr.)
S	**12**	**Malik Smith (Jr.)**	27	Kameron Kelly (So.)
S	**14**	**Trey Lomax (So.)**	32	Kendrick Mathis (Jr.)
S	**21**	**Na'im McGee (Jr.)**	18	Brandon Porter (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	59	Donny Hageman (Sr.)	KR	19	Donnel Pumphrey (Jr.)
P	91	Tanner Blain (Jr.)	PR	82	Lloyd Mills (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Bawden, 38-13-147-2, 1 TD
Rushing: Donnel Pumphrey, 276 att., 1,867 yds., 20 TDs
Receiving: Eric Judge, 24 rec., 471 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Calvin Munson, 83
Sacks: Calvin Munson, 4.0
Interceptions: Calvin Munson, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Ernie Anderson, SDSU Media Relations

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

National Forecast: 110
MW West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Ron Caragher
Record at School: 9-15 (2 years)
Career Record: 53-37 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Al Borges
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Robinson
San Jose, CA • Spartan Stadium (30,456)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 New Hampshire
12 at Air Force
19 at Oregon State
26 Fresno State

OCTOBER
3 at Auburn
10 at UNLV
17 San Diego State
24 New Mexico

NOVEMBER
6 BYU
14 at Nevada
21 at Hawaii
27 Boise State

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug.	28	North Dakota	W	42-10
Sept.	6	at Auburn	L	13-59
Sept.	20	at Minnesota	L	7-24
Sept.	27	Nevada	L	10-21
Oct.	4	UNLV	W	33-10
Oct.	18	at Wyoming	W	27-20
Oct.	25	at Navy	L	31-41
Nov.	1	Colorado State	L	31-38
Nov.	8	at Fresno State	L	24-38
Nov.	15	Hawaii	L	0-13
Nov.	21	at Utah State	L	7-41
Nov.	29	at San Diego State	L	7-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kanya Bell, WR, Compton, CA
2. Tae'on Mason, CB, Pasadena, CA
3. Jeremy Kelly, DB, Los Angeles, CA
4. Malik Roberson, RB, Harbor city, CA
5. Dominic Fredrickson, OG, Oakley, CA
6. Deshawn Fortune, DT, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
7. Corey Adolphus, LB, Gardena, CA
8. Dehlon Preston, CB, Fresno, CA
9. Dakari Monroe, CB, San Jose, CA
10. Colin Baker, WR, Murrieta, CA

STAT CORNER

-7.9

SJSU's field position margin in 2014, 126th in the country. Abysmal special teams were the Spartans' downfall all season.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	19.3 ppg	12	113
Rushing	141.3 ypg	11	94
Passing	253.2 ypg	4	44
Total	394.5 ypg	7	70
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	29.4 ppg	8	83
Rushing	239.4 ypg	10	116
Passing	117.8 ypg	1	1
Total	357.3 ypg	3	32
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-12	-1.00	12	114

OFFENSE To say that the Spartans offense sputtered late last season is to give them a pass. San Jose State lost its last six games of 2014, scoring only 14 points in their last three games. Quarterback play was a major contributor to the problem. Senior Blake Jurich won the job but then lost it to Joe Gray, who then lost it to Mitch Ravizza, who then lost it to Gray.

Gray has claim to the job in 2015, but with two junior college transfers (Kenny Potter and Malik Watson) behind him, his leash will likely be short. Last year, he threw for 2,305 yards with 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Gray will have a young but experienced offensive line in front of him and a bevy of playmakers around him to help find cohesion under new offensive coordinator Al Borges.

Tyler Ervin is the Spartans' most interesting weapon. On a team with a nice stable of running backs and a load of possession receivers, Ervin carries the most big-play potential. He averaged 5.6 yards on his 158 rushing attempts (888 yards) and also caught 29 passes.

The Spartans also signed one of the best recruiting classes — if not the single best — among mid-major schools, punching way above their weight, especially with players on the outside of the field. If the Spartans offense isn't clicking heading into conference play, there could be a flood of young, talented players injected into the depth chart.

DEFENSE Last season, the Spartans had one of the nation's best pass defenses and worst run defenses. That makes losses on an already bad defensive line especially concerning. But it's also possible that the turnover is good for the Spartans on the line — the guys up front weren't getting it done last season, allowing 239 rushing yards per game while amassing only 46 tackles for a loss (123rd nationally).

The linebacking corps looks to be a strength, especially with the return of Christian Tago and Hawaii transfer Jared Leaf, who sat out last year. Freshman Frank Ginda has the potential to make an immediate impact.

But the linebackers pale in comparison to the real strength of the Spartans defense — the secondary — as if the run/pass disparity from last year didn't make that already known. Supremely talented, the secondary is also young. It's led by sophomore safety Maurice McKnight, who had five pass breakups, accounted for nearly 10 percent of the team's tackles and had two sacks in his rookie campaign. With corners Jimmy Pruitt and Cleveland Wallace (combined 21 pass breakups last year) and senior free safety Simon Connette, there's not much ground that won't be covered. If anyone passes on the Spartans, that is.

SPECIALISTS Recruiting prowess should shore up the Spartans coverage units, which is a major point of concern last season. If they can make space, Ervin's presence in the return game can bear more fruit. Last season the open-field playmaker was able to return only one punt for a touchdown.

FINAL ANALYSIS This year is setting up to be a bridge between the old and new for San Jose State. The Spartans' tremendous recruiting class will filter its way onto the field throughout the year; but while those players find their footing, there are questions at quarterback and on the defensive line that will likely hold the Spartans back. Add in a tough schedule, and bowl eligibility looks like it will be a major accomplishment in 2015. But with youth at strength positions, and the best infusion of youth the program has ever known ready to fill the gaps, the future looks bright in 2016 and beyond.



TYLER WINSTON

Terrell Lloyd/San Jose State Athletics

"They do a great job of evaluating talent, and because of location they'll get some really good players."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	**Tyler Ervin (Sr.)**	2	Tim Crawley (Jr.)	
WR	87	**Hansell Wilson (Sr.)**	11	Chris Kearney (Sr.)	
WR	15	**Tyler Winston (Jr.)**	9	Justin Holmes (Fr.)	
LT	72	**Wes Schweitzer (Sr.)**	70	Fernando Villanueva (Jr.)	
LG	79	Troy Kowalski (Fr.)		Dominic Fredrickson (Fr.)	
C	62	**Jeremiah Kolone (So.)**	56	Doug Blacksill (Sr.)	
RG	75	**Nate Velichko (So.)**	74	Chris Gonzalez (So.)	
RT	77	**Evan Sarver (Jr.)**	76	Kyle Wright (Jr.)	
TE	80	Andrew Vollert (So.)	18	Billy Freeman (Jr.)	
QB	6	**Joe Gray (Sr.)**	12	Kenny Potter (Jr.)	
RB	3	Thomas Tucker (So.)	40	Jarrod Lawson (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	96	Cedric Lousi (Sr.)	43	Mikal Berry (So.)	
DT	98	**Tony Popovich (Sr.)**	92	Keenan Sykes (Jr.)	
DT	57	Nate Falo (Sr.)	93	Loni Fa (Jr.)	
DE	94	Eugene Taylor (Jr.)	86	Christian Hill (Sr.)	
LB	29	William Ossai (So.)	22	Hector Roach (Sr.)	
LB	11	Jared Leaf (Sr.)	5	Frank Ginda (Fr.)	
LB	4	**Christian Tago (Jr.)**	53	Isaiah Irving (Jr.)	
CB	8	**Jimmy Pruitt (Sr.)**	24	Dominic Barnes (Jr.)	
CB	6	**Cleveland Wallace III (Jr.)**		Tae'on Mason (Fr.)	
SS	28	Simon Connette (Sr.)	26	Vincenté Miles Jr. (Sr.)	
FS	10	Maurice McKnight (So.)	7	David Williams (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Austin Lopez (Sr.)	KR	7	Tyler Ervin (Sr.)
P	17	Michael Carrizosa (So.)	PR	7	Tyler Ervin (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joe Gray, 330-210-2,305-9, 11 TDs
Rushing: Tyler Ervin, 158 att., 888 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Winston, 78 rec., 694 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Christian Tago, 96
Sacks: Tony Popovich, 2.0
Interceptions: Jimmy Pruitt, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UNLV REBELS

National Forecast: 122
MW West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Tony Sanchez
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Barney Cotton
Defensive Coordinator: Kent Baer
Las Vegas, NV • Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Northern Illinois	
12	UCLA	
19	at Michigan	
26	Idaho State	
OCTOBER		
3	at Nevada	
10	San Jose State	
16	at Fresno State	
31	Boise State	
NOVEMBER		
7	Hawaii	
14	at Colorado State	
21	San Diego State	
28	at Wyoming	

2014 RESULTS (2-11, 1-7)

Aug.	29	at Arizona		L 13-58
Sept.	6	Northern Colorado		W 13-12
Sept.	13	Northern Illinois		L 34-48
Sept.	20	at Houston		L 14-47
Sept.	27	at San Diego State		L 17-34
Oct.	4	at San Jose State		L 10-33
Oct.	10	Fresno State	(ot)	W 30-27
Oct.	25	at Utah State		L 20-34
Nov.	1	New Mexico		L 28-31
Nov.	8	Air Force		L 21-48
Nov.	15	at BYU		L 23-42
Nov.	22	at Hawaii		L 35-37
Nov.	29	Nevada		L 27-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jay'Onn Myles, CB, Palmdale, CA *
2. Justin Polu, OL, Henderson, NV
3. Salanoa-Alo Wily, DL, Laie, HI
4. Alex Neale, OL, Bellevue, WA
5. Darius Mouton, CB, Houston TX
6. Bailey Laolagi, LB, Folsom, CA
7. Dalton Sneed, QB, Scottsdale, AZ
8. Brandon Presley, WR, Temecula, CA
9. Javin White, S, Oakland, CA
10. Nathan Jacobson, OT, Snohomish, WA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

52.1

Rushing attempts per game by UNLV opponents in 2014, the most in the nation. That's what happens when you can't stop the run.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	21.9 ppg	9	104
Rushing	129.2 ypg	12	102
Passing	258.2 ypg	3	43
Total	387.4 ypg	9	78
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	38.5 ppg	12	113
Rushing	293.8 ypg	12	123
Passing	219.6 ypg	3	50
Total	513.5 ypg	11	123
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-7	-0.54	10	105

OFFENSE First-year coach Tony Sanchez won a mythical national high school championship at nearby Bishop Gorman in 2014 with a run-first philosophy. He and veteran offensive coordinator Barney Cotton, who spent the past eight years as associate head coach and run game coordinator at Nebraska, share similar philosophies and will try to add some muscle to a Rebel offense that ranked 104th nationally in scoring (21.9 ppg).

Senior Blake Decker, who finished fourth in the Mountain West in total offense but threw more interceptions (18) than touchdowns (15), returns at quarterback but was pushed strongly by junior college transfer Kurt Palandech in spring practice.

The strength of the offense will be wide receiver, where Devonte Boyd, who grabbed a team-best 65 passes for 980 yards and four touchdowns, returns after earning Freshman All-America honors. Kendal Keys also impressed while catching 24 passes as a freshman, and Sanchez also expects big things from highly touted incoming freshmen Brandon Presley and Darren Woods Jr.

The offensive line must be rebuilt after losing a pair of four-year starters in tackle Brett Boyko and center Robert Waterman. Will Kreitler, a second team NJCAA All-American, was impressive in spring drills and is expected to be the anchor along with Kyle Saxelid, who made five starts as a true freshman at left tackle.

Junior Keith Whitely, who ran for 504 yards and scored two touchdowns, is the team's top returning rusher, but he is expected to be pushed by talented incoming freshmen Xzaviar Campbell and Lexington Thomas in the fall.

DEFENSE Kent Baer, who has been a defensive coordinator at 10 FBS schools, including Notre Dame, Arizona State and Stanford, comes over from Colorado. He will have his hands full trying to turn around a defense that allowed 38.5 points and 293.8 yards rushing per game a year ago.

The Rebels do have a couple of talented pieces to build around in junior linebacker Tau Lotulelei and senior free safety Peni Vea, who combined for 188 tackles and 6.5 sacks. Lotulelei is one of three returning starters on an athletic unit that has good depth and is expected to be the strength of the defense. Vea, who tied for second in the Mountain West in tackles by defensive backs, is the lone returning starter in a secondary that yielded 25 touchdowns while coming up with just seven interceptions. That unit should get a boost from touted junior college corner Jay'Onn Myles, who turned down Arizona and Baylor to sign with the Rebels.

The key will be the development of a young defensive line that returns just one starter in senior end Sonny Sanitoa. Sanchez was impressed by tackles Tuli Fakauho and Mike Hughes during the spring and believes junior college transfer Mark Finau and true freshman Salanoa-Alo Wily will be key additions in the fall.

SPECIALISTS Senior Logan Yunker returns after placing 30 kicks inside the 20 and adding 14 punts of 50 yards or more last season. Nicolai Bornand and Jonathan Leiva both return after sharing placekicking duties. Whitley will be among those battling for return duties in the fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS The energetic Sanchez, who won six straight state titles at Bishop Gorman and has strong backing from the Las Vegas community, now tries to make the big jump to Division-I football. He takes over a sputtering UNLV program that has lost 10 or more games in six of the last nine seasons and faces a daunting schedule that includes non-conference games against UCLA, Michigan and Northern Illinois. Avoiding double digits in losses again this season would be a major accomplishment.


DEVONTE BOYD

"I think it's wait and see (on Tony Sanchez). If there's a guy who can energize that program, it's him."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	83	**Devonte Boyd (So.)**		Brandon Presley (Fr.)
WR	6	**Anthony Williams (Sr.)**		Darren Woods Jr. (Fr.)
WR	84	Kendal Keys (So.)	9	Aaron Criswell (Sr.)
LT	76	Kyle Saxelid (So.)	65	Patrick Carroll (Jr.)
LG	60	Eric Noone (Jr.)	61	Chris Lopez (So.)
C	58	Will Kreitler (Jr.)	75	Kayne Boyer (Fr.)
RG	72	Ron Scroggins (Sr.)	71	Tom Clarkson (Jr.)
RT	63	J'Ondray Sanders (So.)	66	Charles Howard (Jr.)
TE	46	Jake Phillips (Sr.)	88	Andrew Price (Jr.)
QB	5	**Blake Decker (Sr.)**	14	Kurt Palandech (So.)
RB	28	Keith Whitley (Jr.)		Xzavier Campbell (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	93	**Sonny Sanitoa (Sr.)**	19	Mark Finau (So.)
DT	99	Mike Hughes Jr. (So.)	97	Dominic Baldwin (Jr.)
DT	68	Tuli Fakauho (Jr.)		Salanoa-Alo Wily (Fr.)
DE	54	Iggy Porchia (Jr.)	41	Joseph Salazar (Fr.)
LB	55	**Tau Lotulelei (Jr.)**	51	Kimble Jensen (Sr.)
LB	56	**Ryan McAleenan (Jr.)**	50	Trent Langham (Jr.)
LB	23	Matt Lea (So.)	43	Najee Johnson (Sr.)
CB	4	Torry McTyer (Jr.)	34	Charles Henry (Fr.)
CB	24	Fred Wilson (Sr.)		Jay'Onn Myles (Jr.)
S	42	**Peni Vea (Sr.)**	11	Troy Hawthorne (Jr.)
S	2	Blake Richmond (Sr.)	44	Kenny Keys (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Nicolai Bornand (Jr.)	KR	28	Keith Whitley (Jr.)
P	45	Logan Yunker (Sr.)	PR	28	Keith Whitley (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Decker, 401-231-2,886-18, 15 TDs
Rushing: Keith Whitely, 118 att., 504 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Devonte Boyd, 65 rec., 980 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Tau Lotulelei, 100
Sacks: Peni Vea, 3.5
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

AP

Pac-12 PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	NORTH	SOUTH
1	OREGON **DUCKS** 10-3, 8-1 PAC-12	USC **TROJANS** 11-2, 7-2 PAC-12
2	STANFORD **CARDINAL** 8-4, 5-4 PAC-12	ARIZONA STATE **SUN DEVILS** 9-3, 7-2 PAC-12
3	WASHINGTON **HUSKIES** 6-6, 4-5 PAC-12	UCLA **BRUINS** 9-3, 6-3 PAC-12
4	CALIFORNIA **GOLDEN BEARS** 6-6, 4-5 PAC-12	ARIZONA **WILDCATS** 8-4, 5-4 PAC-12
5	WASHINGTON STATE **COUGARS** 4-8, 2-7 PAC-12	UTAH **UTES** 7-5, 4-5 PAC-12
6	OREGON STATE **BEAVERS** 3-9, 1-8 PAC-12	COLORADO **BUFFALOES** 5-8, 1-8 PAC-12

Pac-12 Championship Game: USC over Oregon

2014 BOWL RESULTS

National Championship Game: Ohio State 42, Oregon 20
Rose Bowl (CFP semifinal): Oregon 59, Florida State 20
Fiesta Bowl: Boise State 38, Arizona 30
Alamo Bowl: UCLA 40, Kansas State 35
Holiday Bowl: USC 45, Nebraska 42
Sun Bowl: Arizona State 36, Duke 31
Foster Farms Bowl: Stanford 45, Maryland 21
Las Vegas Bowl: Utah 45, Colorado State 10
Cactus Bowl: Oklahoma State 30, Washington 22

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Rose Bowl: USC vs. Michigan State
Fiesta Bowl: Oregon vs. Boise State
Alamo Bowl: Arizona State vs. Oklahoma
Holiday Bowl: Stanford vs. Penn State
Sun Bowl: Arizona vs. Georgia Tech
Foster Farms Bowl: UCLA vs. Minnesota
Las Vegas Bowl: California vs. Utah State
Cactus Bowl: Utah vs. Kansas State
Poinsettia Bowl: Washington vs. Colorado State

Peter Brouillet

2014 PAC-12 STANDINGS

NORTH	PAC-12	OVERALL	SOUTH	PAC-12	OVERALL
Oregon	8-1	13-2	Arizona	7-2	10-4
Stanford	5-4	8-5	UCLA	6-3	10-3
Washington	4-5	8-6	Arizona State	6-3	10-3
California	3-6	5-7	USC	6-3	9-4
Washington State	2-7	3-9	Utah	5-4	9-4
Oregon State	2-7	5-7	Colorado	0-9	2-10

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	3	4	2	7	9	4	6
ARIZONA STATE	5	6	10	5	5	3	3
CALIFORNIA	2	5	4	9	8	8	12
COLORADO	7	11	8	8	7	10	9
OREGON	4	1	3	4	4	5	4
OREGON STATE	12	10	9	12	11	12	10
STANFORD	6	7	6	2	6	2	7
UCLA	9	2	5	3	1	1	2
USC	1	8	1	1	3	6	1
UTAH	8	3	12	6	2	7	8
WASHINGTON	11	9	11	10	10	11	5
WASHINGTON STATE	10	12	7	11	12	9	11

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. USC 2. UCLA 3. Oregon 4. Arizona State 5. Stanford
6. Washington 7. California 8. Arizona 9. Washington State
10. Utah 11. Oregon State 12. Colorado



PRESEASON ALL-PAC-12 TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Cody Kessler	6-1	210	Sr.	USC
RB	Devontae Booker	5-11	212	Sr.	Utah
RB	Paul Perkins	5-11	198	Jr.	UCLA
WR	Cayleb Jones	6-3	215	Jr.	Arizona
WR	JuJu Smith	6-2	210	So.	USC
WR	Nelson Spruce	6-1	195	Sr.	Colorado
C	Max Tuerk	6-6	285	Sr.	USC
OL	Joshua Garnett	6-5	325	Sr.	Stanford
OL	Tyler Johnstone	6-6	295	Sr.	Oregon
OL	Toa Lobendahn	6-3	280	So.	USC
OL	Kyle Murphy	6-7	298	Sr.	Stanford
AP	D.J. Foster	5-11	195	Sr.	Arizona State

First-Team Defense

DL	DeForest Buckner	6-7	290	Sr.	Oregon
DL	Kenny Clark	6-3	308	Jr.	UCLA
DL	Hunter Dimick	6-3	266	Jr.	Utah
DL	Eddie Vanderdoes	6-3	305	Jr.	UCLA
LB	Su'a Cravens	6-1	225	Jr.	USC
LB	Myles Jack	6-1	232	Jr.	UCLA
LB	Scooby Wright	6-1	246	Jr.	Arizona
CB	Ishmael Adams	5-8	190	Jr.	UCLA
CB	Adoree' Jackson	5-11	185	So.	USC
S	Budda Baker	5-10	176	So.	Washington
S	Jordan Simone	6-0	193	Sr.	Arizona State

First-Team Specialists

K	Andy Phillips	5-10	205	Jr.	Utah
P	Tom Hackett	5-11	195	Sr.	Utah
KR	Adoree' Jackson	5-11	185	So.	USC
PR	Charles Nelson	5-8	170	So.	Oregon

Second-Team Offense

QB	Jared Goff	6-4	210	Jr.	California
RB	Royce Freeman	5-11	230	So.	Oregon
RB	Nick Wilson	5-10	199	So.	Arizona
WR	Kenny Lawler	6-3	195	Jr.	California
WR	Byron Marshall	5-10	200	Sr.	Oregon
WR	Jordan Payton	6-1	213	Sr.	UCLA
C	Jake Brendel	6-4	290	Sr.	UCLA
OL	Joe Dahl	6-4	303	Sr.	Washington State
OL	Stephane Nembot	6-7	295	Sr.	Colorado
OL	Viane Talamaivao	6-3	330	So.	USC
OL	Christian Westerman	6-4	301	Sr.	Arizona State
AP	Christian McCaffrey	6-0	197	So.	Stanford

Second-Team Defense

DL	Lowell Lotulelei	6-2	310	So.	Utah
DL	Tashon Smallwood	6-0	285	So.	Arizona State
DL	Antwaun Woods	6-1	325	Sr.	USC
LB	Addison Gillam	6-3	225	Jr.	Colorado
LB	Peter Kalambayi	6-3	245	Jr.	Stanford
LB	Blake Martinez	6-2	247	Sr.	Stanford
LB	Viliami Moeakiola	6-1	212	Jr.	Arizona State
CB	Lloyd Carrington	6-0	194	Sr.	Arizona State
CB	Fabian Moreau	6-0	195	Sr.	UCLA
S	Reggie Daniels	6-1	205	Jr.	Oregon
S	Will Parks	6-1	194	Sr.	Arizona

Second-Team Specialists

K	Zane Gonzalez	6-1	189	Jr.	Arizona State
P	Drew Riggleman	6-2	213	Sr.	Arizona
KR	John Ross	5-11	194	Jr.	Washington
PR	Christian McCaffrey	6-0	197	So.	Stanford

Cal CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

National Forecast: 47
Pac-12 North Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Sonny Dykes
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 28-33 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Franklin
Defensive Coordinator: Art Kaufman
Berkeley, CA
Memorial Stadium (62,467)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Grambling State
12	San Diego State
19	at Texas
26	at Washington
OCTOBER	
3	Washington State
10	at Utah
22	at UCLA
31	USC
NOVEMBER	
7	at Oregon
14	Oregon State
21	at Stanford
28	Arizona State

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 3-6)

Aug.	30	at Northwestern	W	31-24
Sept.	6	Sacramento State	W	55-14
Sept.	20	at Arizona	L	45-49
Sept.	27	Colorado	(ot) W	59-56
Oct.	4	at Washington State	W	60-59
Oct.	11	Washington	L	7-31
Oct.	18	UCLA	L	34-36
Oct.	24	vs. Oregon #	L	41-59
Nov.	1	at Oregon State	W	45-31
Nov.	13	at USC	L	30-38
Nov.	22	Stanford	L	17-38
Nov.	29	BYU	L	35-42

#Santa Clara

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Carlos Strickland, WR, Dallas, TX
2. Jaylinn Hawkins, WR, Buena Park, CA
3. Semisi Uluave, OL, Honolulu, HI
4. Lonny Powell, RB, Sacramento, CA
5. Russell Ude, OL, Atlanta, GA
6. Ross Bowers, QB, Bothell, WA
7. Malik Psalms, DB, Chino Hills, CA
8. Austin Aaron, WR, Napa, CA
9. Antoine Albert, DB, Oakland, CA*
10. Ryan Gibson, OL, Bay St. Louis, MS

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

42

Touchdown passes allowed by the Cal defense in 2014. The Bears' Bay Area neighbors, San Jose State, gave up only six.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	38.3 ppg	2	10
Rushing	149.2 ypg	10	84
Passing	346.0 ypg	2	6
Total	495.2 ypg	3	13
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	39.8 ppg	12	120
Rushing	144.6 ypg	4	38
Passing	367.2 ypg	12	125
Total	511.8 ypg	12	121
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-3	-0.25	9	85

OFFENSE The nation's 10th-ranked scoring offense in 2014 should be even more prolific. Junior quarterback Jared Goff, who already has passed for 7,481 yards and 53 touchdowns, could own Cal's career records in both categories by midseason. The Bears expect Goff to have even more command of the fast-tempo, no-huddle Bear Raid offense. "He just knows what he's looking for," Cal coach Sonny Dykes says.

A versatile running back corps is led by senior Daniel Lasco, who rushed for 1,115 yards last season. Sophomore Vic Enwere, now 6'1", 225 pounds, could be the power back missing from Cal's arsenal. Wide receiver remains Cal's deepest position group, featuring senior Bryce Treggs (150 career receptions) and junior Kenny Lawler, who at 6'3" with huge hands topped the Bears in every receiving category last season. Stephen Anderson, Maurice Harris, Trevor Davis and Darius Powe combined for 115 catches.

Progress on the offensive line has been tangible, and Dykes envisions more improvement. The goal in spring was not merely to settle who would win the two vacant O-line spots but also to develop a group that goes nine or 10 deep, and Dykes feels like the Bears did that.

DEFENSE How inept were the Bears on defense a year ago? Cal gave up the mind-blowing total of 61 touchdowns, allowing each of its final 10 opponents to score at least 31 points. The defense should be better but must demonstrate its ability to hold up against the pass. With neither a consistent rush on the passer nor the ability to cover in the secondary, the Bears allowed 42 TD passes, most ever by a Power 5 team.

The Bears believe their defensive line will be improved after signing six new players at the tackle or end positions, including junior college transfer DeVante Wilson, who began his career at USC. Back after missing last season with mononucleosis is end Kyle Kragen, identified by defensive coordinator Art Kaufman as the team's best D-lineman in spring ball. Mustafa Jalil had a solid season and may be ready to become a force in the middle. James Looney, a transfer from Wake Forest, likely will line up alongside Jalil.

Linebackers Hardy Nickerson, Jalen Jefferson and Michael Barton have combined to start 54 career games, but the secondary remains, without question, Cal's biggest area of concern. Five new defensive backs were part of the recruiting class, but only Derron Brown, a junior college safety, was on campus for spring ball. Four returning safeties sat out while mending, prompting Dykes to label the position "a mess." Stay tuned.

SPECIALISTS There was nothing special about Cal's kicking units last season, but at least they were improved from 2013, when the Bears allowed six touchdowns on punt and kickoff returns. Still, Cal hopes to see improvement in about every category here. Cole Leininger returns as the punter, but placekicker is up for grabs. Trevor Davis, who returned two kickoffs for touchdowns at Washington State, may add punt return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Cal was one of the nation's most-improved teams. But the Bears were far from satisfied after losing six of their final seven games to miss out on the postseason for the third straight year. "We could have taken the program to the next step," Lawler says, "but we just came up short."

No one in the program will be happy with anything less than a bowl game and the chance to compete near the top of the Pac-12 North. Defense remains Cal's great unknown, and the road schedule is daunting. But Goff says the team is ready for something different. "There's so much more confidence on our team," Goff says. "Expectations are very high."



JARED GOFF

"They were really a handful of plays away from going 8–5, and most of it was because of their young kids."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	Kenny Lawler (Jr.)	**3**	**Maurice Harris (Sr.)**	
WR	**1**	**Bryce Treggs (Sr.)**	10	Darius Powe (Sr.)	
WR	9	Trevor Davis (Sr.)	21	Jack Austin (So.)	
WR	**89**	**Stephen Anderson (Sr.)**	11	Ray Hudson (So.)	
LT	**64**	**Steven Moore (Jr.)**	78	Vincent Johnson (So.)	
LG	**66**	**Chris Borrayo (Jr.)**	77	J.D. Hinnant (So.)	
C	74	Matt Cochran (Jr.)	57	Addison Ooms (Fr.)	
RG	**73**	**Jordan Rigsbee (Sr.)**	72	Kamryn Bennett (Fr.)	
RT	59	Brian Farley (Sr.)	55	Dominic Granado (Jr.)	
QB	**16**	**Jared Goff (Jr.)**	14	Chase Forrest (Fr.)	
RB	**2**	**Daniel Lasco (Sr.)**	23	Vic Enwere (So.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	13	Kyle Kragen (Sr.)	33	Noah Westerfield (So.)	
DT	9	James Looney (Jr.)	91	Trevor Kelly (Sr.)	
DT	**90**	**Mustafa Jalil (Sr.)**	97	Tony Mekari (So.)	
DE	75	Puka Lopa (Sr.)	95	DeVante Wilson (Jr.)	
LB	30	Jake Kearney (Jr.)	19	Maximo Espitia (Jr.)	
LB	47	Hardy Nickerson (Jr.)	25	Hamilton Anoa'i (So.)	
LB	**8**	**Michael Barton (Jr.)**	**7**	**Jalen Jefferson (Sr.)**	
CB	6	Darius White (Sr.)		Antoine Albert (Jr.)	
CB	2	Darius Allensworth (So.)	**37**	**Cedric Dozier (Jr.)**	
S	**21**	**Stefan McClure (Sr.)**	4	Derron Brown (So.)	
S	26	Griffin Piatt (Jr.)	8	Luke Rubenzer (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	9	Matt Anderson (So.)	KR	9	Trevor Davis (Sr.)
P	16	Cole Leininger (Sr.)	PR	9	Trevor Davis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jared Goff, 509-316-3,973-7, 35 TDs
Rushing: Daniel Lasco, 210 att., 1,115 yds, 12 TDs
Receiving: Kenny Lawler, 54 rec., 701 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Michael Barton, 80
Sacks: Devante Downs, 3.0
Interceptions: Griffin Piatt, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

OREGON DUCKS

National Forecast: 8
Pac-12 North Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Mark Helfrich
Record at School: 24-4 (2 years)
Career Record: 24-4 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scott Frost
Defensive Coordinator: Don Pellum
Eugene, OR • Autzen Stadium (54,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Eastern Washington
12	at Michigan State
19	Georgia State
26	Utah
OCTOBER	
3	at Colorado
10	Washington State
17	at Washington
29	at Arizona State
NOVEMBER	
7	California
14	at Stanford
21	USC
27	Oregon State

2014 RESULTS (13-2, 8-1)

Aug.	30	South Dakota	W	62-13
Sept.	6	Michigan State	W	46-27
Sept.	13	Wyoming	W	48-14
Sept.	20	at Washington State	W	38-31
Oct.	2	Arizona	L	24-31
Oct.	11	at UCLA	W	42-30
Oct.	18	Washington	W	45-20
Oct.	24	vs. California %	W	59-41
Nov.	1	Stanford	W	45-16
Nov.	8	at Utah	W	51-27
Nov.	22	Colorado	W	44-10
Nov.	29	at Oregon State	W	47-19
Dec.	5	vs. Arizona %	W	51-13
Jan.	1	vs. Florida State $	W	59-20
Jan.	12	vs. Ohio State #	L	20-42

%Santa Clara $Rose Bowl; CFP Semifinal
#CFP Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Canton Kaumatule, DL, Honolulu, HI
2. Taj Griffin, RB, Powder Springs, GA
3. Travis Jonsen, QB, Anaheim, CA
4. Alex Ofodile, WR, Columbia, MO
5. Malik Lovette, WR, Redlands, CA
6. Kirk Merritt, WR, Destrehan, LA
7. Zach Okun, OL, Newbury Park, CA
8. Ugo Amadi, CB, Nashville, TN
9. Paris Bostick, LB, Tampa, FL*
10. Rex Manu, DL, Mililani, HI

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

5.52

Yards per play allowed by the UO defense last year. This was a regression of 0.91 yards per play from the previous season.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	45.4 ppg	1	4
Rushing	234.5 ypg	1	20
Passing	312.5 ypg	3	10
Total	547.0 ypg	1	3
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	23.6 ppg	2	30
Rushing	165.4 ypg	10	60
Passing	264.3 ypg	7	108
Total	429.7 ypg	8	87
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+23	+1.53	1	1

OFFENSE Oregon enters a new era after the loss of Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Marcus Mariota, who led the FBS with a passer rating of 181.75 and averaged 9.01 yards per play of total offense. To replace him, the Ducks signed fifth-year transfer Vernon Adams — who led the FCS with a passing rating of 183.13 and averaged 9.0 yards per play of total offense. Adams wasn't on hand for spring drills, however, giving a big head start to his primary challenger, returning junior Jeff Lockie. The bulk of Lockie's experience came in mop-up duty the last two years. Coaches have expressed confidence in Lockie's experience and decision-making, but Adams is far more proven as a playmaker.

As usual, there's an embarrassment of riches at the skill positions. Running back Royce Freeman is drawing Heisman buzz, after teaming with junior Thomas Tyner to rush for nearly 2,000 yards last season. The receiving corps, led by Byron Marshall and Dwayne Stanford, welcomes Bralon Addison back into the fold after a knee injury. But sophomores Devon Allen (ACL surgery) and Darren Carrington (suspension) are question marks entering the fall, as is tight end Pharaoh Brown due to a knee injury.

The offensive line needs to replace four-year starting center Hroniss Grasu; one candidate is former walk-on Matt Pierson, pressed into action last season and now considered a dependable veteran.

DEFENSE The Ducks got a big boost when defensive end DeForest Buckner opted to return for his senior season. He was easily the most disruptive player in the front seven last season, even more so than Arik Armstead, who left early for the NFL.

The linebackers hope to make this year's defense more well-rounded up front. Senior inside backer Rodney Hardrick and Joe Walker need to find their way into the backfield more often, and outside backers Tyson Coleman and Christian French want to boost their sack totals. Defensive coordinator Don Pellum was criticized at times in 2014 for rushing as few as three players, and the Ducks intend to be more aggressive in 2015.

That said, they may have to protect a secondary that's young at the cornerback spots. Sophomore Chris Seisay replaced the injured Ifo Ekpre-Olomu in the postseason last year and held up well, but he's far from a proven commodity. Sophomore Arrion Springs, true freshman Ugo Amadi and converted receiver Charles Nelson also will compete for time at corner, supported by two solid safeties in Reggie Daniels and Tyree Robinson.

SPECIALISTS The good news: Oregon returns both specialists, kicker Aidan Schneider and punter Ian Wheeler. The bad news: Both joined the Ducks as walk-ons and beat out scholarship players for reps. Schneider was a pleasant surprise as a true freshman, making 11-of-12 attempts, but Wheeler battled inconsistency. The return game will be bolstered by the return of Addison, who averaged 14.1 yards per punt return in 2013. All of last season's top kick returners are back.

FINAL ANALYSIS "It's a new day in Oregon football," offensive coordinator Scott Frost acknowledged during the first week of spring practice. The upcoming season will be one of major transition after the graduation of a group of seniors who led the program to four postseason victories, two in the Rose Bowl. In 2014, the Ducks debuted a number of future stars in the freshman class: Freeman, Allen, Carrington, offensive lineman Tyrell Crosby and defensive backs Seisay, Nelson and Robinson. How quickly they can reach their potential — and what kind of quarterback play the Ducks get from a couple of intriguing candidates — could determine whether Oregon's run of success continues to 2015, or if this fall merely serves as a bridge to 2016.


ROYCE FREEMAN

"In my mind, they're still the team to beat (in the Pac-12) until somebody knocks them off."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**88**	**Dwayne Stanford (Jr.)**	4	Alex Ofodile (Fr.)	
WR	**9**	**Byron Marshall (Sr.)**	2	Bralon Addison (Jr.)	
WR	15	Jalen Brown (Fr.)	7	Darren Carrington (So.)	
LT	64	Tyler Johnstone (Sr.)	74	Elijah George (So.)	
LG	76	Jake Pisarcik (So.)	79	Evan Voeller (So.)	
C	**62**	**Matt Pierson (Sr.)**	57	Doug Brenner (So.)	
RG	**78**	**Cameron Hunt (Jr.)**	77	Haniteli Lousi (Sr.)	
RT	**73**	**Tyrell Crosby (So.)**	71	Braden Eggert (Fr.)	
TE	81	Evan Baylis (Jr.)	83	Johnny Mundt (Jr.)	
QB		Vernon Adams (Sr.)	17	Jeff Lockie (Jr.)	
RB	**21**	**Royce Freeman (So.)**	24	Thomas Tyner (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**44**	**DeForest Buckner (Sr.)**	92	Henry Mondeaux (So.)	
DT	**56**	**Alex Balducci (Sr.)**	50	Austin Maloata (So.)	
DE	45	T.J. Daniel (Jr.)	55	Tui Talia (Sr.)	
OLB	**33**	**Tyson Coleman (Sr.)**	32	Eddie Heard (Jr.)	
ILB	**48**	**Rodney Hardrick (Sr.)**	46	Danny Mattingly (So.)	
ILB	35	Joe Walker (Sr.)	18	Jimmie Swain (So.)	
OLB	96	Christian French (Sr.)	86	Torrodney Prevot (Jr.)	
CB	6	Charles Nelson (So.)	1	Arrion Springs (So.)	
CB	12	Chris Seisay (So.)	14	Ugo Amadi (Fr.)	
S	**8**	**Reggie Daniels (Jr.)**	26	Khalil Oliver (Fr.)	
S	3	Tyree Robinson (So.)	17	Juwaan Williams (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Aidan Schneider (So.)	**KR**	6	Charles Nelson (So.)
P	38	Ian Wheeler (So.)	**PR**	6	Charles Nelson (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jeff Lockie, 28-21-207-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Royce Freeman, 252 att., 1,365 yds., 18 TDs
Receiving: Byron Marshall, 74 rec., 1,003 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Reggie Daniels, 83
Sacks: Christian French, 6.5
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Craig Mitchelldyer

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

National Forecast: 73
Pac-12 North Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Gary Andersen
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 49-38 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Baldwin
Defensive Coordinator: Kalani Sitake
Corvallis, OR • Reser Stadium (45,674)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Weber State
12 at Michigan
19 San Jose State
25 Stanford

OCTOBER
10 at Arizona
17 at Washington State
24 Colorado
31 at Utah

NOVEMBER
7 UCLA
14 at California
21 Washington
27 at Oregon

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 2-7)

Aug. 30	Portland State	W	29-14
Sept. 6	at Hawaii	W	38-30
Sept.20	San Diego State	W	28-7
Sept.27	at USC	L	10-35
Oct. 4	at Colorado	W	36-31
Oct. 16	Utah (ot)	L	23-29
Oct. 25	at Stanford	L	14-38
Nov. 1	California	L	31-45
Nov. 8	Washington State	L	32-39
Nov. 15	Arizona State	W	35-27
Nov. 22	at Washington	L	13-37
Nov. 29	Oregon	L	19-47

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Christian Folau, LB, Salt Lake City, UT
2. Paul Lucas, WR, Phoenix, AZ
3. Noah Togiai, TE, Salt Lake City, UT
4. Shawn Wilson, CB, Pomona, CA
5. Miki Fifita, OL, Wailuku, HI
6. Tuli Wily-Matagi, TE, Kahuku, HI
7. Blake Brandel, OL, Portland, OR
8. Elu Aydon, DT, Pago Pago, AS
9. Deltron Sands, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
10. Jay Irvine, CB, Jacksonville, FL

STAT CORNER

13,600

Career passing yards for Sean Mannion in four years at Oregon State. A new era begins in Corvallis in more ways than one.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
SX Scoring	25.7 ppg	12	86
Rushing	118.1 ypg	11	110
Passing	275.4 ypg	7	31
Total	393.5 ypg	9	72
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	31.6 ppg	9	96
Rushing	158.2 ypg	9	51
Passing	248.1 ypg	3	91
Total	406.3 ypg	4	74
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+4	+0.33	7	40

OFFENSE New offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin is installing an up-tempo spread system that needs a quarterback to beat defenses with his arm, legs and mind. And coming out of spring practice, the Beavers had three players with zero college experience vying for that starting job in redshirt freshmen Nick Mitchell and Marcus McMaryion and true freshman early enrollee Seth Collins.

The good news is that the Beavers will have proven pieces surrounding whoever wins that quarterback job. Senior running back Storm Woods looks primed to push for 1,000 yards after splitting carries the last two seasons. The returning receivers are headlined by speedster Victor Bolden (72 receptions, 798 yards, two touchdowns in 2014) and Jordan Villamin, a 6'4", 235-pound physical specimen who broke out for 35 catches, 578 yards and six touchdowns during the second half of last season. Caleb Smith possesses physical gifts at tight end.

The line brings back all five players who started the final four games of the season, including center Josh Mitchell and left tackle Sean Harlow. Also expected back is star Isaac Seumalo, who missed all of 2014 and spring practice while recovering from two foot surgeries. And watch out for Ryan Nall, a redshirt freshman who boasts unique athleticism and versatility. He took snaps at H-back, tight end and running back in the spring.

DEFENSE The Beavers are moving to a 3-4 base defensive front under new coordinator Kalani Sitake, allowing linemen such as Kyle Peko (if he can get academically eligible), Jaswha James and Jalen Grimble to plug the interior while an impressive crop of young linebackers make plays. Those linebackers — highlighted by sophomore Darrell Songy and redshirt freshman Bright Ugwoegbu — offered one of the most pleasant surprises of the spring after the Beavers lost all three starters from last season's squad.

The secondary also lost a trio of starters but returns cornerback Larry Scott, who has improved his coverage technique dramatically after an uneven 2014, and a pair of safeties with a nice blend of physicality and playmaking instincts in Cyril Noland-Lewis and Justin Strong. The top position battles on the back end are at the other cornerback spot, where Dwayne Williams looks primed to step in for former standout Steven Nelson after wowing on the scout team as a true freshman in 2014; and nickel back, where walk-on Devin Chappell has quickly morphed into one of this squad's biggest feel-good stories.

SPECIALISTS Oregon State returns kicker Garrett Owens, who nailed 11-of-13 field-goal attempts (including a long of 46 yards) while splitting time with Trevor Romaine last season. The other specialist spots, however, will have new faces in punter Nick Porebski, long snapper Connor Kelsey and holder Richard Mullaney. Bolden, Rahmel Dockery and Chris Brown have experience as returners.

FINAL ANALYSIS Oregon State has been trumpeting the "new era" motto, and for good reason. After former coach Mike Riley pulled off arguably the biggest stunner of the coaching carousel by bolting for Nebraska, Oregon State's luring Gary Andersen away from Wisconsin was almost as shocking. Andersen rebuilt Utah State in a short time and has hired a top-notch staff to help him do the same in Corvallis. But with so much youth at quarterback, plus a slew of holes to fill on a defense that will consistently match up against some of the nation's most potent offenses, can Oregon State expect to contend for a bowl game in a loaded Pac-12? The Beavers are likely still at least a year away from making serious progress in the win/loss column.


VICTOR BOLDEN

Tim Umphrey

"We know what Kalani (Sitake) did at Utah, but they're going to need some time to get the right kind of players in there."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	13	Jordan Villamin (So.)	8	Richard Mullaney (Sr.)	
WR	2	Hunter Jarmon (So.)	19	Xavier Hawkins (So.)	
WR	6	**Victor Bolden (Jr.)**	88	Rahmel Dockery (Jr.)	
LT	77	**Sean Harlow (Jr.)**	79	Bobby Keenan (Jr.)	
LG	64	Fred Lauina (So.)	76	Yanni Demogerontas (Fr.)	
C	50	**Josh Mitchell (Sr.)**	63	Mason Johnson (Fr.)	
RG	62	**Gavin Andrews (Sr.)**	51	Kammy Delp (Fr.)	
RT	74	**Dustin Stanton (Jr.)**	60	Will Hopkins (So.)	
TE	10	**Caleb Smith (Sr.)**	83	Kellen Clute (Sr.)	
QB	4	Seth Collins (Fr.)	14	Nick Mitchell (Fr.)	
RB	24	**Storm Woods (Sr.)**	1	Chris Brown (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (2)

DE	48	**Jaswha James (Sr.)**	59	Lavonte Barnett (Sr.)	
NG	99	Kyle Peko (Sr.)	90	Ali'i Robins (Sr.)	
DE	10	Jalen Grimble (Sr.)	93	Titus Failauga (Sc.)	
LB	47	Bright Ugwoegbu (Fr.)	55	Manase Hungalu (So.)	
LB	46	Rommel Mageo (Jr.)	35	Caleb Saulo (Jr.)	
LB	41	Darrell Songy (So.)	49	David Henry (So.)	
LB	5	Kyle Haley (Jr.)	18	Jonathan Willis (Fr.)	
CB	15	**Larry Scott (Sr.)**	9	Dashon Hunt (So.)	
CB	29	Dwayne Williams (Fr.)	26	Devin Chappell (Jr.)	
S	17	Cyril Noland-Lewis (Jr.)	3	Brandon Arnold (So.)	
S	39	Justin Strong (So.)	43	Adam Soesman (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	21	Garrett Owens (So.)	KR	1	Chris Brown (Jr.)
P		Nick Porebski (Jr.)	PR	88	Rahmel Dockery (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Luke Del Rio, 18-8-141-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Storm Woods, 121 att., 766 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Victor Bolden, 72 rec., 798 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Justin Strong, 56
Sacks: Lavonte Barnett, 4.5
Interceptions: None

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

STANFORD CARDINAL

National Forecast: 24
Pac-12 North Prediction: 2

Head Coach: David Shaw
Record at School: 42-12 (4 years)
Career Record: 42-12 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bloomgren
Defensive Coordinator: Lance Anderson
Stanford, CA • Stanford Stadium (50,424)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Northwestern	
12	UCF	
19	at USC	
25	at Oregon State	
OCTOBER		
3	Arizona	
15	UCLA	
24	Washington	
31	at Washington State	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Colorado	
14	Oregon	
21	California	
28	Notre Dame	

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug.	30	UC Davis	W	45-0
Sept.	6	USC	L	10-13
Sept.	13	Army	W	35-0
Sept.	27	at Washington	W	20-13
Oct.	4	at Notre Dame	L	14-17
Oct.	10	Washington State	W	34-17
Oct.	18	at Arizona State	L	10-26
Oct.	25	Oregon State	W	38-14
Nov.	1	at Oregon	L	16-45
Nov.	15	Utah	L	17-20
Nov.	22	at California	W	38-17
Nov.	28	at UCLA	W	31-10
Dec.	30	vs. Maryland #	W	45-21

#Foster Farm Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Trenton Irwin, WR, Newhall, CA
2. Frank Buncom IV, DB, San Diego, CA
3. Bryce Love, RB, Wake Forest, NC
4. Cameron Scarlett, RB, Portland, OR
5. Nick Wilson, G, Milton, GA
6. Ben Edwards, S, Jacksonville, FL
7. Justin Reid, S, Geismar, LA
8. Quenton Meeks, S, Crescent City, CA
9. Brian Chaffin, C, Harrisburg, NC
10. Dylan Jackson, DE, Maryville, TN

STAT CORNER

3.85

Stanford's points per trip inside the 40, 109th in the country. The Cardinal gave away too many points near the end zone.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	27.2 ppg	11	77
Rushing	158.8 ypg	8	70
Passing	229.8 ypg	10	65
Total	388.6 ypg	11	75
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	16.4 ppg	1	2
Rushing	104.5 ypg	1	7
Passing	177.9 ypg	1	8
Total	282.4 ypg	1	3
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-5	-0.38	10	95

OFFENSE Stanford's success offensively will likely hinge on the progression of quarterback Kevin Hogan — a veteran in his third year as a starter who had an up-and-down 2014. The Cardinal failed to produce a 1,000-yard rusher for the first time since 2007, and that put a great deal of strain on Hogan. But as the coaching staff tweaked the offense down the stretch, he closed out the year completing 76 percent of his throws in the final three games — wins over Cal, UCLA and Maryland in the Foster Farms Bowl.

Look for sophomore running back Christian McCaffrey to make a major impact this season. He came on strong at the end of last year and provided a big lift on the ground and in the return game. Remound Wright and Barry Sanders will also see plenty of time in the rotation, but McCaffrey should get the bulk of the carries in 2015. That'll open up all sorts of possibilities in the passing game, where Devon Cajuste returns as the primary pass catcher. Look for the Cardinal, who are known to get creative with offensive formations, to run multiple tight end sets with a trio of big-bodies — Austin Hooper, Eric Cotton and Greg Taboada.

And while Stanford does have to replace All-America tackle Andrus Peat, four of five starters from the offensive line are back.

DEFENSE Stanford had its issues on offense last season — which contributed to the disappointing 8–5 record — but the defense was dominant as usual. The Cardinal not only led the Pac-12 in total defense (282.4 ypg), they also allowed more than 100 fewer yards per game than the league's No. 2 defense (Utah, 393.5 ypg).

The linebacking corps should be the strength of the unit, led by explosive pass-rushing outside backers Kevin Anderson and Peter Kalambayi. Last year the two combined for 12 sacks and 21 tackles for a loss. The Cardinal are solid up the middle with Blake Martinez (team-leading 102 tackles last year) and Kevin Palma rounding out the corps.

Up front, the Cardinal have limited experience and depth issues. Aziz Shittu and Harrison Phillips should make up two-thirds of the line, with Cal transfer — yes, a transfer from Stanford's Bay Area rival — Brennan Scarlett expected to offer some relief at the other defensive end spot.

There are some veterans in the defensive backfield, but not a ton of overall experience with the graduation of safety Jordan Richards, cornerback Alex Carter declaring for the draft and the transfer of Wayne Lyons to Michigan. Safety Zach Hoffpauir is a hard hitter, but his future with the team might be determined by the MLB Draft. Former quarterback Dallas Lloyd and former receiver Kodi Whitfield — who switched positions prior to 2014 — have another year of experience in the secondary.

SPECIALISTS The Cardinal have to replace their kicker and punter. Conrad Ukropina looks like the choice at kicker, and the hope is that incoming freshman Jake Bailey can take over the punting responsibilities. If he doesn't win the job, it will likely fall to either Alex Robinson or Ukropina. Look for Sanders and McCaffrey to contribute in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Stanford closed last season as one of the hottest teams in the country. The offense, which played its best down the stretch, should be better this year, but there are depth issues on defense for the first time in a while. If they can plug those gaps and find solid replacements in the kicking game, the Cardinal should threaten Oregon for supremacy in the Pac-12 North.


CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY

"Christian McCaffrey is going to be a big-time player for them. They've got to figure out a way to get him more touches."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	89	**Devon Cajuste (Sr.)**	3	Michael Rector (Jr.)	
WR	4	Francis Owusu (Jr.)	13	Rollins Stallworth (Sr.)	
LT	78	**Kyle Murphy (Sr.)**	66	Nick Davidson (Jr.)	
LG	51	**Joshua Garnett (Sr.)**	74	Brendon Austin (Sr.)	
C	52	**Graham Shuler (Sr.)**	73	Jesse Burkett (Fr.)	
RG	57	**Johnny Caspers (Jr.)**	71	Brandon Fanaika (Fr.)	
RT	77	Casey Tucker (So.)	64	David Bright (So.)	
TE	18	**Austin Hooper (So.)**	9	Dalton Schultz (Fr.)	
QB	8	**Kevin Hogan (Sr.)**	10	Keller Chryst (Fr.)	
FB	35	Daniel Marx (So.)	82	Chris Harrell (Jr.)	
RB	5	Christian McCaffrey (So.)	22	**Remound Wright (Sr.)**	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	7	Aziz Shittu (Sr.)	90	Solomon Thomas (Fr.)	
NT	66	Harrison Phillips (So.)	55	Nate Lohn (Jr.)	
DE		Brennan Scarlett (Sr.)	75	Jordan Watkins (Jr.)	
OLB	48	**Kevin Anderson (Sr.)**	32	Joey Alfieri (Fr.)	
ILB	4	**Blake Martinez (Sr.)**	15	Jordan Perez (Fr.)	
ILB	44	Kevin Palma (So.)	3	Noor Davis (Jr.)	
OLB	34	Peter Kalambayi (So.)	99	Luke Kaumatule (Sr.)	
CB	21	**Ronnie Harris (Sr.)**	13	Alijah Holder (Fr.)	
CB	23	Alameen Murphy (Fr.)	11	Terrence Alexander (So.)	
SS	5	Kodi Whitfield (Sr.)	29	Dallas Lloyd (Jr.)	
FS	10	**Zach Hoffpauir (Sr.)**	45	Calvin Chandler (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	24	Conrad Ukropina (Sr.)	KR	5	Christian McCaffrey (So.)
P		Jake Bailey (Fr.)	PR	5	Christian McCaffrey (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kevin Hogan, 352-232-2,792-8, 19 TDs
Rushing: Remound Wright, 135 att., 601 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Austin Hooper, 40 rec., 499 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Blake Martinez, 102
Sacks: Peter Kalambayi, 6.5
Interceptions: Blake Martinez, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

National Forecast: 46
Pac-12 North Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Chris Petersen
Record at School: 8-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 100-18 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jonathan Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Kwiatkowski
Seattle, WA • Husky Stadium (70,138)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
4	at Boise State	
12	Sacramento State	
19	Utah State	
26	California	
OCTOBER		
8	at USC	
17	Oregon	
24	at Stanford	
31	Arizona	
NOVEMBER		
7	Utah	
14	at Arizona State	
21	at Oregon State	
27	Washington State	

2014 RESULTS (8-6, 4-5)

Aug.	30	at Hawaii	W	17-16
Sept.	6	Eastern Washington	W	59-52
Sept.	13	Illinois	W	44-19
Sept.	20	Georgia State	W	45-14
Sept.	27	Stanford	L	13-20
Oct.	11	at California	W	31-7
Oct.	18	at Oregon	L	20-45
Oct.	25	Arizona State	L	10-24
Nov.	1	at Colorado	W	38-23
Nov.	8	UCLA	L	30-44
Nov.	15	at Arizona	L	26-27
Nov.	22	Oregon State	W	37-13
Nov.	29	at Washington State	W	31-13
Jan.	2	vs. Oklahoma State #	L	22-30

#Cactus Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jake Browning, QB, Granite Bay, CA
2. Benning Potoa'e, DL, DuPont, WA
3. Austin Joyner, CB, Marysville, WA
4. Henry Roberts, OT, Bellevue, WA
5. Trey Adams, OT, Wenatchee, WA
6. Isaiah Renfro, WR, Los Angeles, CA
7. Myles Gaskin, RB, Lynwood, WA
8. Chico McClatcher, WR, Federal Way, WA
9. DJ Beavers, LB, Culver City, CA
10. Jason Scrempos, DL, Milpitas, CA

Games lost by Chris Petersen in the last two years (four for Boise State in 2013, six for UW in 2014). He lost eight games from 2006-12.

STAT CORNER

10

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	30.2 ppg	9	54
Rushing	188.6 ypg	4	40
Passing	200.1 ypg	11	87
Total	388.6 ypg	10	74
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	3	39
Rushing	124.1 ypg	2	22
Passing	286.6 ypg	10	120
Total	410.6 ypg	6	78
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+12	+0.86	3	9

OFFENSE In his second season as Washington coach, Chris Petersen's top priority is to settle on a new quarterback. Looking to improve the Huskies' passing attack that ranked 11th in the Pac-12 in 2014, Petersen will choose between redshirt freshman K.J. Carta-Samuels and true freshman Jake Browning, a pair of promising pocket passers. Carta-Samuels would seem to have the edge simply because he's been in the program longer and is more physically developed.

The ground game is in more established hands with Dwayne Washington. The Huskies' leading returning rusher (697 yards, 5.3 per carry) in just a half season as the starter, he's a big back with breakaway speed. The 6'2", 221-pound junior ripped off scoring runs of 66, 68, 51 and 60 yards late in the season.

The new quarterback won't have any shortage of passing targets, especially if he wants to throw deep. Jaydon Mickens, Dante Pettis and especially John Ross all run well as multi-purpose threats. Mickens is the Huskies' leading returning receiver (60 catches, 617 yards), and he scored twice as a runner scooting around the corner. Pettis, the son of former MLB player Gary Pettis, best demonstrated his explosiveness with an 87-yard score on a punt return. Ross was even more elusive in a limited offensive role — he started at cornerback, too — averaging 75 yards on seven scoring plays coming as a receiver, runner and returner.

Left guard Dexter Charles is the only returning full-time starter up front, back for a fourth season in the opening-day lineup. But given the experience of some of the candidates, this position area might not be as worrisome as it appears.

DEFENSE The line will require a complete makeover after the Huskies graduated all four starters and now move to a truer 3-4 alignment. Which prompts this pressing question: Can this Washington team stop anyone on the ground? Redshirt freshman Jaylen Johnson, sophomore Elijah Qualls and senior Taniela Tupou will get the first shot at it. None has any starting experience.

The linebacking corps also suffered a huge loss of talent with four-year starter John Timu and All-American Shaq Thompson departing. The only full-time starter returning is senior Travis Feeney, who enters his third season as a regular. He'll be joined on the inside by sophomores Azeem Victor and Keishawn Bierria, who played a lot in their first seasons.

What once was a glaring weakness — with as many as three freshmen starting at one time, compounded by cornerback Marcus Peters' midseason dismissal — the secondary is now the Huskies' defensive strength. Back for his second season, free safety Budda Baker arguably is the team's best player and top honors candidate. As a true freshman, Baker was on the field more than any other Washington player, collecting 80 tackles and pulling steady special-teams duty. Sophomore cornerback Sidney Jones is a proven coverage guy who has established himself.

SPECIALISTS The Huskies have full confidence in their special teams. Placekicker Cameron Van Winkle was among the nation's best in 2014, converting on 20-of-24 field-goal attempts. Senior punter Korey Durkee averaged 42.5 yards per kick. Ross already possesses a school-record three touchdowns on kickoff returns in just two seasons. Pettis' punt return for a score was the first for the Huskies in 11 seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS For Petersen's second season, Huskies followers will lower their expectations. Just nine starters return. The defensive front seven must be almost completely rebuilt. A new quarterback needs to be broken in. Now the rebuilding really begins. Six or seven wins would be considered progress.


BUDDA BAKER

"When you look at some of the big-time guys they lost, I think they may take a few steps back before they move forward."
-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	87	Dante Pettis (So.)	81	Brayden Lenius (So.)	
WR	4	**Jaydon Mickens (Sr.)**	10	Marvin Hall (Sr.)	
WR	1	John Ross (Jr.)		Isaiah Renfro (Fr.)	
LT	52	Jake Eldrenkamp (Jr.)	73	Andrew Kirkland (So.)	
LG	76	**Dexter Charles (Sr.)**	55	Dane Crane (So.)	
C	65	Siosifa Tufunga (Sr.)	67	Michael Kneip (Jr.)	
RG	60	Shane Brostek (Jr.)	75	Jesse Sosebee (Fr.)	
RT	79	**Coleman Shelton (So.)**	58	Kaleb McGary (Fr.)	
TE	82	**Joshua Perkins (Sr.)**	15	Darrell Daniels (Jr.)	
QB	11	K.J. Carta-Samuels (Fr.)	3	Jake Browning (Fr.)	
RB	12	**Dwayne Washington (Jr.)**	22	Lavon Coleman (So.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	98	Jaylen Johnson (Fr.)	50	Vita Vela (Fr.)	
NT	11	Elijah Qualls (So.)	99	Greg Gaines (Fr.)	
DE	90	Taniela Tupou (Sr.)		Benning Potoa'e (Fr.)	
OLB	5	Joe Mathis (Jr.)	28	Psalm Wooching (Jr.)	
ILB	25	Keishawn Bierria (So.)	34	Sean Constantine (So.)	
ILB	36	Azeem Victor (So.)	47	Scott Lawyer (Sr.)	
OLB	41	**Travis Feeney (Sr.)**	42	Cory Littleton (Sr.)	
CB	26	**Sidney Jones (So.)**	31	Naijiel Hale (So.)	
CB	3	Darren Gardenhire (So.)	6	Jermaine Kelly (So.)	
SS	20	**Kevin King (Jr.)**	35	Brian Clay (Sr.)	
FS	32	**Budda Baker (So.)**	9	Brandon Beaver (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Cameron Van Winkle (Jr.)	KR	1	John Ross (Jr.)
P	45	Korey Durkee (Sr.)	PR	87	Dante Pettis (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Dwayne Washington, 132 att., 697 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jaydon Mickens, 60 rec., 617 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Shaq Thompson, 81
Sacks: Joe Mathis, 2.0
Interceptions: Travis Feeney, 2; Sidney Jones, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Steven Bisig

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

National Forecast: 66
Pac-12 North Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Mike Leach
Record at School: 12-25 (3 years)
Career Record: 96-68 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Leach
Defensive Coordinator: Alex Grinch
Pullman, WA • Martin Stadium (32,952)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Portland State
12	at Rutgers
19	Wyoming
OCTOBER	
3	at California
10	at Oregon
17	Oregon State
24	at Arizona
31	Stanford
NOVEMBER	
7	Arizona State
14	at UCLA
21	Colorado
27	at Washington

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 2-7)

Aug.	28	vs. Rutgers #	L	38-41
Sept.	5	at Nevada	L	13-24
Sept.	13	Portland State	W	59-21
Sept.	20	Oregon	L	31-38
Sept.	27	at Utah	W	28-27
Oct.	4	California	L	59-60
Oct.	10	at Stanford	L	17-34
Oct.	25	Arizona	L	37-59
Nov.	1	USC	L	17-44
Nov.	8	at Oregon State	W	39-32
Nov.	22	at Arizona State	L	31-52
Nov.	29	Washington	L	13-31

#Seattle

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Thomas Toki, DT, Mountain View, CA
2. Shalom Luani, S, American Somoa*
3. Kameron Powell, S, Upland, CA
4. Tyler Hilinski, QB, Upland, CA
5. Darrien Molten, CB, Temecula, CA
6. James Williams, RB, Burbank, CA
7. Treshon Broughton, CB, Murrieta, CA*
8. T.J. Fehoko, DE, Salt Lake City, UT
9. Aaron Porter, LB, La Habra, CA*
10. Joseph Price, OL, Redlands, CA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

-12

Change in WSU's turnover margin from 2013 (-5) to 2014 (-17). Efficiency was about the same, but mistakes were deadly.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	31.8 ppg	7	45
Rushing	39.8 ypg	12	125
Passing	477.7 ypg	1	1
Total	517.5 ypg	2	7
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	38.6 ppg	10	114
Rushing	145.7 ypg	5	40
Passing	296.6 ypg	11	124
Total	442.3 ypg	9	97
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-17	-1.42	12	123

OFFENSE Little-known redshirt freshman Luke Falk filled in admirably when starter Connor Halliday went down against USC, throwing for 346 yards and two touchdowns. He won his first start by tossing five touchdowns at Oregon State and showed impressive poise and mobility while finishing the season with 13 touchdown passes and more than 1,800 yards in just six games.

The Cougars return their top two running backs — Jamal Morrow and Gerard Wicks — and add explosive former receiver Keith Harrington to the mix. Throw in the fact that WSU also returns all five starting offensive linemen, and it's a good bet that the Cougars will run the ball a fair amount more this fall. In fact, while the Cougars have been exclusively a shotgun team since coach Mike Leach arrived at WSU in 2012, he says that the quarterbacks could be under center as often as 25 percent of the time in 2015, in part to give the running backs better angles.

On the one hand, the Cougars lose two of the most productive receivers in school history in Isiah Myers (78 catches, 12 touchdowns) and Biletnikoff Award semifinalist Vince Mayle (106 catches, 1,483 yards). But the Cougars will get back Gabe Marks, who redshirted last season after leading the Cougars in catches (74), yards (807) and tying for the team lead with seven touchdowns in 2013. Marks and playmaking receiver Dom Williams will start at the outside positions, while speedster Robert Lewis will be inside along with River Cracraft, who provides consistency and was a favorite target on third downs.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Mike Breske was dismissed during last season's disappointing campaign. Leach hired Alex Grinch, the safeties coach at Missouri, to replace him. Grinch's emphasis is on speed, and in spring practice the Cougars worked almost exclusively out of a nickel defense.

Defensive end Xavier Cooper left early for the NFL Draft, but replacing his five sacks is doable. Potentially more challenging will be finding a nose tackle to replace Kalafitoni Pole, WSU's starter in the middle of the line the last two seasons. Making things more difficult, two of the true nose tackles on the roster, Robert Barber and Ngalu Tapa, both missed the spring with injuries.

Jeremiah Allison and Peyton Pelluer return to head the linebackers, of which typically there will be only two on the field at one time. Getting to the quarterback will be an emphasis for Grinch, and indications this spring were that the weak-side backer will spend a lot of time in opposing backfields.

Darius Lemora started 10 games at safety for the Cougars last year, and he will take over as the full-time nickel back. Marcellus Pippins and Charleston White each played well at times last year, and they will get looks at cornerback along with junior college transfer Treshon Broughton following the dismissal of Daquawn Brown, the team's leading tackler. Sulaiman Hameed and Isaac Dotson were the starting safeties during spring practice, but four-star junior college signee Shalom Luani joins the mix this fall.

SPECIALISTS Erik Powell lost his starting job to Quentin Breshears after hitting just 2-of-5 attempts to start the season, but it looks like the coaches will give him another shot. Since Jordan Dascalo left the team after starting each game as a freshman, Powell will have a chance to assume punting duties as well. Expect incoming freshman Matt Abramo to also figure into the mix.

FINAL ANALYSIS After making their first bowl game in a decade in 2013, the Cougars backslid last season. Experience and depth are still issues, but the hope in Pullman is that the coaching changes combined with an infusion of junior college talent will help this team get back to the postseason.



JEREMIAH ALLISON

"People are going to focus on the quarterback situation, but I think that's the least of their worries."
-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	80	Dom Williams (Sr.)	83	Calvin Green (So.)	
WR	15	Robert Lewis (So.)	26	Tyler Baker (Sr.)	
WR	21	**River Cracraft (Jr.)**		Kyle Sweet (Fr.)	
WR	9	Gabe Marks (Jr.)		C.J. Dimry (Jr.)	
LT	56	**Joe Dahl (Sr.)**	63	Gunnar Eklund (Sr.)	
LG	63	**Gunnar Eklund (Sr.)**	76	Cody O'Connell (So.)	
C	58	**Riley Sorenson (Jr.)**	64	Sam Flor (Jr.)	
RG	73	**Eduardo Middleton (Jr.)**	62	Moritz Christ (Sr.)	
RT	61	**Cole Madison (So.)**	71	Jacob Seydel (Sr.)	
QB	4	Luke Falk (So.)	6	Peyton Bender (Fr.)	
RB	23	Gerard Wicks (So.)	25	**Jamal Morrow (So.)**	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	97	**Destiny Vaeao (Sr.)**	59	Hercules Mata'afa (Fr.)	
NT	90	Daniel Ekuale (So.)	95	Ngalu Tapa (Fr.)	
DE	99	Darryl Paulo (Sr.)		Jeremiah Mitchell (Jr.)	
RUSH	40	**Kache Palacio (Sr.)**	3	Ivan McLennan (Sr.)	
WLB	8	**Jeremiah Allison (Sr.)**	43	Dylan Hanser (So.)	
MLB	47	Peyton Pelluer (So.)		Aaron Porter (Jr.)	
CB	16	**Charleston White (So.)**	17	Pat Porter (So.)	
CB		Treshon Broughton (Jr.)	27	Marcellus Pippins (So.)	
NB	28	**Darius Lemora (So.)**		Sean Harper (Fr.)	
SS		Shalom Luani (Jr.)	37	Sulaiman Hameed (So.)	
FS	31	Isaac Dotson (So.)	30	**Taylor Taliulu (Sr.)**	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Erik Powell (So.)	KR	27	Marcellus Pippins (So.)
P		Matt Abramo (Fr.)	PR	27	Marcellus Pippins (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Luke Falk, 243-156-1,859-7, 13 TDs
Rushing: Jamal Morrow, 87 att., 351 yds., 0 TD
Receiving: River Cracraft, 66 rec., 771 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Jeremiah Allison, 78
Sacks: Kache Palacio, 6.5
Interceptions: Charleston White, 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

ARIZONA WILDCATS

National Forecast: 30
Pac-12 South Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Rich Rodriguez
Record at School: 26-14 (3 years)
Career Record: 146-98-2 (21 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Calvin Magee, Rod Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Casteel
Tucson, AZ • Arizona Stadium (56,029)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 UTSA
12 at Nevada
19 Northern Arizona
26 UCLA

OCTOBER
3 at Stanford
10 Oregon State
17 at Colorado
24 Washington State
31 at Washington

NOVEMBER
7 at USC
14 Utah
21 at Arizona State

2014 RESULTS (10-4, 7-2)

Aug.	29	UNLV	W	58-13
Sept.	4	at UTSA	W	26-23
Sept.	13	Nevada	W	35-28
Sept.	20	California	W	49-45
Oct.	2	at Oregon	W	31-24
Oct.	11	USC	L	26-28
Oct.	25	at Washington State	W	59-37
Nov.	1	at UCLA	L	7-17
Nov.	8	Colorado	W	38-20
Nov.	15	Washington	W	27-26
Nov.	22	at Utah	W	42-10
Nov.	28	Arizona State	W	42-35
Dec.	5	vs. Oregon %	L	13-51
Dec.	31	vs. Boise State #	L	30-38

%Santa Clara #Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keenan Walker, OL, Scottsdale, AZ
2. Cody Creason, OL, Folsom, CA
3. Anthony Fotu, DL, Oakland, CA*
4. Shun Brown, CB, Shreveport, LA
5. Cedric Peterson, WR, Moreno Valley, CA
6. Paul Magliore JR, S, Fort Lauderdale, FL*
7. Anthony Marsical, ATH, Bakersfield, CA
8. Devon Brewer, DB, Fresno, CA
9. Sharif Williams, DL, Fresno, CA
10. Kendal Frankin, LB, New Orleans, LA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

6

Fumbles forced by Scooby Wright in 2014. He almost single-handedly bumped UA's turnover margin from plus-4 in 2013 to plus-8.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	34.5 ppg	5	28
Rushing	181.9 ypg	5	45
Passing	281.8 ypg	6	21
Total	463.6 ypg	5	25
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	28.2 ppg	8	78
Rushing	169.8 ypg	11	68
Passing	281.2 ypg	9	118
Total	451.0 ypg	10	103
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+8	0.57	5	26

OFFENSE Sophomore quarterback Anu Solomon is the first holdover QB starter at Arizona since Nick Foles in 2010-11. He is not a fast runner, nor notably elusive, and he doesn't have NFL-type arm strength. But as he was as a Las Vegas prep quarterback — 57–3 with four state championships — he has proved to be a winner at Arizona. Solomon's numbers — 3,793 passing yards and 28 touchdown passes — broke school freshman records. Redshirt freshman Brandon Dawkins struggled with passing accuracy in spring practice. Fifth-year senior Jerrard Randall, once an LSU quarterback, is a running threat with explosiveness, but his decision-making and accuracy have kept him on the bench.

Sophomore tailback Nick Wilson required little break-in time, gaining 1,375 yards as a freshman. He is a power runner with what coach Rich Rodriguez calls "good eyes," adept at hitting openings and making something out of nothing. Fifth-year senior Jared Baker is the clear No. 2.

Cayleb Jones is among the nation's best receivers. In his first year as a starter, he caught 73 balls for 1,019 yards and was a go-to receiver in clutch situations. He heads a deep and experienced group, which is the strength of Arizona's offense. Samajie Grant became a big-play receiver with 45 receptions, six for touchdowns.

Losing three-year starting tackles Mickey Baucus and Fabbians Ebbele hasn't been a setback. Cal transfer Freddie Tagaloa will start at left tackle and is expected to play at an all-conference level. Guards Jacob Alsadek and Cayman Bundage are returning starters, and the new right tackle, Lene Maiava, has started at two positions up front. The uncertainty is at center; two former walk-ons, Carter Wood and David Catalano, are frontrunners.

DEFENSE Senior end Reggie Gilbert was awarded a fifth year by the NCAA, which was one of the triumphs of spring practice for Arizona. He is the rock of Arizona's three-man front. Junior Sani Fuimaono and sophomore Parker Zellers will likely split the nose guard job; both played extensively, although Zellers, listed at 247 pounds, gets by on instincts rather than strength.

If linebacker Scooby Wright can match his sophomore numbers — 163 tackles, 29 tackles for a loss, 14 sacks — the Wildcats will be hard to beat. The Pac-12's Defensive Player of the Year has considerable experience beside him: Juniors Cody Ippolito, Jake Matthews and Derrick Turituri all started at least six games.

Arizona didn't pause long to replace three starters in its secondary. Senior safeties Jamar Allah and Tellas Jones combined for 47 tackles last season and are physical players. Sophomore cornerback Jarvis McCall Jr., who started 12 games, might have difficulty reclaiming his job. Junior DaVonte' Neal, who was a receiver/returner last year, moved to corner in spring ball and appeared to win the job. The Notre Dame transfer likely will be joined at the other corner by sophomore Cam Denson, also a former receiver/returner but now strictly a defensive player.

SPECIALISTS Senior kicker Casey Skowron and senior punter Drew Riggleman were so good last season that Rodriguez awarded both with full scholarships midway through the season. Skowron made 20-of-28 field-goal attempts, including a game-winner against Washington. Riggleman was second in the Pac-12 in punting average, at 46.1.

FINAL ANALYSIS Arizona has won 26 games in Rodriguez's first three seasons, the most of any three-year period in school history. "I'm not saying we're ahead of expectations," says Rodriguez, "because we need to get deeper and tougher." This is Rodriguez's top group at Arizona, but it must play 12 weeks in succession without a bye.


SCOOBY WRIGHT

"If anyone in the country got more out of his roster last year than Rich Rodriguez, I don't know who it is."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**1**	**Cayleb Jones (Jr.)**	5	Trey Griffey (Jr.)	
WR	**10**	**Samajie Grant (Jr.)**	4	David Richards (Sr.)	
WR	6	Nate Phillips (Jr.)	2	Tyrell Johnson (So.)	
LT	72	Freddie Tagaloa (Jr.)	58	Layth Friekh (Fr.)	
LG	**61**	**Cayman Bundage (Sr.)**	62	Aiulua Fanene (Jr.)	
C	68	Carter Wood (Sr.)	67	David Catalano (Sr.)	
RG	**78**	**Jacob Alsadek (So.)**	64	Faitele Faafoi (Sr.)	
RT	77	Lene Maiava (Sr.)	70	T.D. Gross (Jr.)	
TE	17	Josh Kern (Jr.)	88	Trevor Wood (So.)	
QB	**12**	**Anu Solomon (So.)**	13	Brandon Dawkins (Fr.)	
RB	**28**	**Nick Wilson (So.)**	23	Jared Baker (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**8**	**Reggie Gilbert (Sr.)**	60	Luca Bruno (So.)	
DT	93	Parker Zellers (So.)	55	Jeff Worthy (Sr.)	
DT	99	Sani Fuimaono (Jr.)	94	Calvin Allen (So.)	
LB	**33**	**Scooby Wright III (Jr.)**	47	Jake Matthews (Jr.)	
LB	**45**	**Derrick Turituri (Jr.)**	57	Cody Ippolito (Jr.)	
LB	32	DeAndre' Miller (So.)	42	Anthony Fotu (Jr.)	
SPUR	**11**	**Will Parks (Sr.)**	28	Anthony Lopez (Sr.)	
CB	3	Cam Denson (So.)	13	Devin Holiday (Jr.)	
CB	19	DaVonte' Neal (Jr.)	**29**	**Jarvis McCall (So.)**	
S	7	Jamar Allah (Sr.)	14	Paul Magloire (Jr.)	
S	1	Tellas Jones (Jr.)	23	Devon Brewer (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Casey Skowron (Sr.)	**KR**	2	Tyrell Johnson (So.)
P	39	Drew Riggleman (Sr.)	**PR**	19	DaVonte' Neal (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anu Solomon, 540-313-3,793-9, 28 TDs
Rushing: Nick Wilson, 236 att., 1,375 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Cayleb Jones, 73 rec., 1,019 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Scooby Wright III, 163
Sacks: Scooby Wright III, 14.0
Interceptions: Cam Denson, 2; William Parks, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

National Forecast: 13
Pac-12 South Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Todd Graham
Record at School: 28-12 (3 years)
Career Record: 77-41 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Norvell
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Chris Ball, Keith Patterson
Tempe, AZ • Sun Devil Stadium (65,870)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	vs. Texas A&M #	
12	Cal Poly	
18	New Mexico	
26	USC	
OCTOBER		
3	at UCLA	
10	Colorado	
17	at Utah	
29	Oregon	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Washington State	
14	Washington	
21	Arizona	
28	at California	

#Houston, TX

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-3)

Aug. 28	Weber State		W	45-14
Sept. 6	at New Mexico		W	58-23
Sept. 13	at Colorado		W	38-24
Sept. 25	UCLA		L	27-62
Oct. 4	at USC		W	38-34
Oct. 18	Stanford		W	26-10
Oct. 25	at Washington		W	24-10
Nov. 1	Utah	(ot)	W	19-16
Nov. 8	Notre Dame		W	55-31
Nov. 15	at Oregon State		L	27-35
Nov. 22	Washington State		W	52-31
Nov. 28	at Arizona		L	35-42
Dec. 27	vs. Duke #		W	36-31

#Sun Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brady White, QB, Newhall, CA
2. Joseph Wicker, DE, Long Beach, CA
3. Stanley Norman, DB, Gardena, CA
4. Davon Durant, LB, Greenwood, SC*
5. Jason Lewis, RB, Virginia Beach, VA
6. Zach Robertson, G, Bellflower, CA
7. Khaylan Thomas, LB, Etiwanda, CA
8. Jay Jay Wilson, ATH, Valencia, CA
9. Jalen Bates, DE, Kaplan, LA
10. Deonte Reynolds, LB, San Pablo, CA*

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

Taylor Kelly's passer rating in 2014. His midseason injury could have been costly, but Mike Bercovici filled in with a 144.1.

145.7

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	36.9 ppg	3	16
Rushing	168.8 ypg	6	56
Passing	273.5 ypg	8	32
Total	442.3 ypg	7	34
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	27.9 ppg	6	74
Rushing	157.4 ypg	8	49
Passing	259.7 ypg	6	103
Total	417.1 ypg	7	81
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+14	+1.08	2	6

OFFENSE Usually, when a team replaces a three-year starter at quarterback, there's going to be a drop-off. But that's not the case at ASU. In three relief starts last year, Mike Bercovici proved he could be an elite quarterback; he has a strong arm and shows great leadership. He's not as mobile as predecessor Taylor Kelly, so the Sun Devils will tweak their offense to suit his skills.

ASU will lean more on its running game, and it has the horses to do so, with three backs — Demario Richard, two-way player Kalen Ballage and speedster Gump Hayes — capable of doing damage. Going to the ground first also makes sense, because the two big question marks on offense most affect the passing game. ASU has to replace both of its starting tackles, and the wide receiver position has been decimated with Jaelen Strong going to the NFL and Cameron Smith sidelined the entire season after knee surgery. D.J. Foster, now a full-time slot receiver after splitting time between tailback/receiver the last three seasons, will be Bercovici's No. 1 target.

DEFENSE ASU lost a couple of key players in defensive lineman Marcus Hardison and safety Damarious Randall, but coach Todd Graham has recruited so well that replacements should be able to step right in.

The strength of the defense is the back seven. ASU can rotate five linebackers without much drop-off. Keep an eye on sophomores Christian Sam and DJ Calhoun; they were pressing for starting positions in spring ball and have the sideline-to-sideline quickness Graham loves at the position.

ASU returns three starters in the secondary, and James Johnson will help negate the loss of Randall.

If there's a concern, it's the lack of a true pass rusher up front. Four-star junior college recruit Davon Durant was plugged in to be the Devil-backer — primarily a pass-rusher in ASU's scheme — but he was suspended indefinitely following an arrest on allegations of domestic abuse.

Graham won't back off despite the lack of an elite pass-rushing threat. Instead, he'll dial up a variety of blitzes to try to keep quarterbacks guessing. It's a dangerous gambit — Oregon State had three touchdowns of at least 35 yards in its 35–27 victory over the Devils last year — but Graham will remain aggressive. It's who he is and how he coaches.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game will be solid with punter Matt Haack and placekicker Zane Gonzalez, but the mission for new special teams coordinator Shawn Slocum is to improve the return game, which has been a disaster for ASU. The answer might be Hayes, who terrorized the defense in practices leading up to last year's Sun Bowl. Hayes has the speed and natural running instincts to be a threat every time he touches the ball.

FINAL ANALYSIS In three seasons Graham has turned an underachieving program into one that regularly cranks out 10-win seasons. This year should be no different. ASU returns 12 starters, and that number doesn't include Bercovici. There are some worries — most notably at wide receiver and offensive tackle — but the Sun Devils have the talent and the coaching to contend for the Pac-12 title.

The schedule is daunting, particularly early in the season. ASU opens against Texas A&M in Houston, and three of its first four conference games are USC, at UCLA and at Utah. But if the Sun Devils can somehow come out of that stretch with just one conference loss, they will be in great shape to win the Pac-12 South. Three of their final five games are at home, and the only road contests are against California and Washington State.


D.J. FOSTER

Peter Brouillet

"To me, they were more dynamic when Mike Bercovici was in there. He's got legitimate arm talent."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	19	Ellis Jefferson (So.)	14	Eric Lauderdale (Jr.)	
WR	81	Gary Chambers (Sr.)	89	Frederick Gammage (Jr.)	
WR	**8**	**D.J. Foster (Sr.)**		Devin Lucien (Sr.)	
LT	76	Sam Jones (Fr.)	57	Evan Goodman (Jr.)	
LG	**55**	**Christian Westerman (Sr.)**	71	Steven Miller (Fr.)	
C	**50**	**Nick Kelly (Sr.)**	77	Stephon McCray (Jr.)	
RG	**73**	**Vi Teofilo (Sr.)**	56	Devin Goodman (Sr.)	
RT	75	William McGehee (Sr.)	59	Quinn Bailey (Fr.)	
TE	**83**	**Kody Kohl (Jr.)**	88	Grant Martinez (So.)	
QB	2	Mike Bercovici (Sr.)	5	Manny Wilkins (Fr.)	
RB	4	Demario Richard (So.)	9	Kalen Ballage (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	97	Edmond Boateng (Jr.)	54	Connor Humphreys (Fr.)	
NT	**90**	**Tashon Smallwood (So.)**	98	Mo Latu (Sr.)	
DE	94	Demetrius Cherry (Sr.)	95	Renell Wren (Fr.)	
OLB	17	Ismael-Murphy Richardson (Fr.)	9	Kalen Ballage (So.)	
ILB	2	Christian Sam (So.)	**58**	**Salamo Fiso (Jr.)**	
ILB	4	DJ Calhoun (So.)	**32**	**Antonio Longino (Sr.)**	
OLB	**28**	**Viliami Moeakiola (Jr.)**	31	Marcus Ball (So.)	
CB	**8**	**Lloyd Carrington (Sr.)**	15	Solomon Means (Sr.)	
CB	**10**	**Kweishi Brown (Sr.)**	13	Armand Perry (So.)	
S	**38**	**Jordan Simone (Sr.)**	24	DeAndre Scott (So.)	
S	18	James Johnson (So.)	5	Chad Adams (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	5	Zane Gonzalez (Jr.)	KR	1	Gump Hayes (Jr.)
P	26	Matt Haack (Jr.)	PR	1	Gump Hayes (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mike Bercovici, 186-115-1,445-4, 12 TDs
Rushing: D.J. Foster, 194 att., 1,081 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: D.J. Foster, 62 rec., 688 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Simone, 100
Sacks: Laiu Moeakiola, 5.0
Interceptions: Kweishi Brown, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

COLORADO BUFFALOES

National Forecast: 67
Pac-12 South Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Mike MacIntyre
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 22-39 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Lindgren
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Leavitt
Boulder, CO • Folsom Field (53,613)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	at Hawaii	
12	Massachusetts	
19	vs. Colorado State #	
26	Nicholls State	
OCTOBER		
3	Oregon	
10	at Arizona State	
17	Arizona	
24	at Oregon State	
31	at UCLA	
NOVEMBER		
7	Stanford	
13	USC	
21	at Washington State	
28	at Utah	

#Denver, CO

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 0-9)

Aug.	29	vs. Colorado State #		L	17-31
Sept.	6	at Massachusetts		W	41-38
Sept.	13	Arizona State		L	24-38
Sept.	20	Hawaii		W	21-12
Sept.	27	at California	(2ot)	L	56-59
Oct.	4	Oregon State		L	31-36
Oct.	18	at USC		L	28-56
Oct.	25	UCLA	(2ot)	L	37-40
Nov.	1	Washington		L	23-38
Nov.	8	at Arizona		L	20-38
Nov.	22	at Oregon		L	10-44
Nov.	29	Utah		L	34-38

#Denver

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tim Lynott, OL, Parker, CO
2. Patrick Carr, RB, Houston, TX
3. N.J. Falo, LB, Sacramento, CA
4. Justin Jan, WR, Chandler, AZ
5. Steven Montez, QB, El Paso, TX
6. Jordan Carrell, DT, Roseville, CA*
7. Isaiah Oliver, CB, Goodyear, AZ
8. Nick Fisher, DB, Temecula, CA
9. Donald Gordon, RB, Compton, CA
10. Aaron Baltazar, RB, Chula Vista, CA*

*junior college transfer

The CU defense allowed an average of 7.09 yards per play against Pac-12 opponents. No other team in the nation allowed more than 7.0 yard against it league foes.

STAT CORNER

7.09

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	28.5 ppg	10	64
Rushing	154.6 ypg	9	75
Passing	284.6 ypg	5	19
Total	439.2 ypg	8	37
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	39.0 ppg	11	116
Rushing	204.8 ypg	12	102
Passing	256.2 ypg	5	100
Total	461.0 ypg	11	111
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-10	-0.83	11	112

OFFENSE Colorado took some big steps forward offensively in 2014, ranking 40th in the nation in yards per game, up 50 spots from the previous season. The Buffs are hoping to build on that success with many of their key contributors back.

Junior Sefo Liufau will enter the season as the starting quarterback for the second consecutive year hoping to build on his successes as a sophomore while also focusing on taking better care of the ball. He has 18 starts under his belt, has attempted 749 passes and thrown for nearly 5,000 yards and 40 touchdowns. There is a lot to like about that experience, but Liufau also has thrown 23 interceptions, and he'll have to dramatically curtail his miscues for the Buffs to take a big step forward in the win column.

Nelson Spruce was on the other end of almost one-third of Liufau's completions last season, hauling in 106 passes for 1,198 yards and 12 touchdowns. Speedy Shay Fields caught 50 balls as a true freshman last year.

Christian Powell has led the Buffs in rushing for three straight years, though his role has diminished since carrying the ball 158 times as a true freshman in 2012. Michael Adkins II and sophomore Phillip Lindsay played extensively in the four-back rotation Colorado employed in 2014. Colorado added Boise State transfer Aaron Baltazar to the roster and also signed two running backs from the high school ranks.

DEFENSE Stopping opponents has been a problem since Colorado joined the Pac-12. The Buffs ranked 102nd in the nation in rushing defense and 116th in scoring defense last season. Those numbers led head coach Mike MacIntyre to hire a new defensive coordinator in former South Florida head coach Jim Leavitt, and he added former Central Michigan defensive coordinator Joe Tumpkin to coach safeties.

Nose tackle Josh Tupou is a three-year starter who has NFL potential. Samson Kafovalu took the 2014 season off for personal reasons but has returned to bolster the interior. Defensive end Derek McCartney is coming off a strong redshirt freshman season. Junior college transfers Jordan Carrell, Blake Robbins and Leo Jackson look like impact players.

MacIntyre has two experienced linebackers in juniors Addison Gillam and Kenneth Olugbode. Keeping them healthy is a must because there isn't much experience behind them.

The secondary might be the deepest and most talented unit on the team, thanks in part to senior safety Jered Bell being awarded a sixth season of eligibility. Cornerback Ken Crawley will be starting for the fourth straight year.

SPECIALISTS CU lost four-year starters at placekicker and punter but might have addressed both positions by signing standout Alex Kinney from just up the road in Fort Collins. Kinney was rated among the nation's best punters coming out of high school. He could steal the placekicking duties away from Diego Gonzalez, a lefty who has struggled with accuracy but has a strong leg, and walk-on Chris Graham, who competed with Gonzalez in the spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS Colorado won only two games in coach MacIntyre's second season and went winless in conference play for the first time in 99 years. Despite those harsh realities, there were tangible signs that the program is finally on the right track and in position to become more competitive in the Pac-12. Four of the Buffaloes' nine league losses came by five points or fewer, including double-overtime losses to Cal and UCLA. The goal in Year 3 is to turn some of those close losses into wins and make a move out of the Pac-12 South basement.



NELSON SPRUCE

Peter Brouillet

"You're just not going to win very much giving up as many yards as they did in the running game and not creating turnovers."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**22**	**Nelson Spruce (Sr.)**	4	Bryce Bobo (So.)	
WR	29	Donovan Lee (So.)	14	Jay MacIntyre (Fr.)	
WR	**5**	**Shay Fields (So.)**	2	Devin Ross (So.)	
LT	**76**	**Jeromy Irwin (Jr.)**	71	Sam Kronshage (So.)	
LG	68	Gerrad Kough (So.)	78	John Lisella II (Fr.)	
C	**74**	**Alex Kelley (Jr.)**	53	Sully Wiefels (Jr.)	
RG	79	Jonathan Huckins (So.)	70	Shane Callahan (Jr.)	
RT	**77**	**Stephane Nembot (Sr.)**	60	Dillon Middlemiss (Fr.)	
TE	81	Sean Irwin (Jr.)	86	Dylan Keeney (Fr.)	
QB	**13**	**Sefo Liufau (Jr.)**	7	Jordan Gehrke (Jr.)	
RB	46	Christian Powell (Sr.)	23	Phillip Lindsay (So.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DE	**95**	**Derek McCartney (So.)**	59	Tim Coleman (So.)	
NT	**55**	**Josh Tupou (Sr.)**	57	Justin Solis (Sr.)	
DT	54	Samson Kafovalu (Jr.)	92	Jordan Carrell (Jr.)	
DE	**98**	**Jimmie Gilbert (Jr.)**	94	Tyler Henington (Jr.)	
MLB	**44**	**Addison Gillam (Jr.)**	32	Rick Gamboa (Fr.)	
WLB	**31**	**Kenneth Olugbode (Jr.)**	27	Travis Talianko (Jr.)	
NB	**4**	**Chidobe Awuzie (Jr.)**	**12**	**John Walker (Jr.)**	
CB	**2**	**Ken Crawley (Sr.)**	**12**	**John Walker (Jr.)**	
CB	23	Ahkello Witherspoon (Jr.)	5	Yuri Wright (Jr.)	
FS	21	Jered Bell (Sr.)	6	Evan White (So.)	
SS	**9**	**Tedric Thompson (Jr.)**	8	Afolabi Laguda (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Diego Gonzalez (Jr.)	**KR**	23	Phillip Lindsay (So.)
P		Alex Kinney (Fr.)	**PR**	5	Shay Fields (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sefo Liufau, 498-325-3,200-15, 28 TDs
Rushing: Christian Powell, 85 att., 448 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Nelson Spruce, 106 rec., 1,198 yds., 12 TDs
Tackles: Kenneth Olugbode, 83
Sacks: Derek McCartney, 4.5
Interceptions: Tedric Thompson, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UCLA BRUINS

National Forecast: 23
Pac-12 South Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Jim Mora
Record at School: 29-11 (3 years)
Career Record: 29-11 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Noel Mazzone
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Bradley
Los Angeles, CA • Rose Bowl (91,136)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Virginia
12 at UNLV
19 BYU
26 at Arizona

OCTOBER
3 Arizona State
15 at Stanford
22 California
31 Colorado

NOVEMBER
7 at Oregon State
14 Washington State
21 at Utah
28 at USC

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-3)

Aug.	30	at Virginia	W	28-20
Sept.	6	Memphis	W	42-35
Sept.	13	vs. Texas %	W	20-17
Sept.	25	at Arizona State	W	62-27
Oct.	4	Utah	L	28-30
Oct.	11	Oregon	L	30-42
Oct.	18	at California	W	36-34
Oct.	25	at Colorado	(ot) W	40-37
Nov.	1	Arizona	W	17-7
Nov.	8	at Washington	W	44-30
Nov.	22	USC	W	38-20
Nov.	28	Stanford	L	10-31
Jan.	2	vs. Kansas State #	W	40-35

%Arlington #Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Josh Rosen, QB, Manhattan Beach, CA
2. Keisean Lucier-South, OLB/DE, Orange, CA
3. Soso Jamabo, RB, Plano, TX
4. DeChaun Holiday, ATH, San Marcos, CA
5. Chris Clark, TE, Ridgewood, NJ
6. Josh Wariboko, OL, Edmond, OK
7. Fred Ulu-Perry, C, Honolulu, HI
8. Andre James, OL, Herriman, UT
9. Cordell Broadus, WR, Los Angeles, CA
10. Josh Woods, LB, Upland, CA

UCLA wins in Jim Mora's first three years at Westwood. The Bruins had won just 27 games in the previous five years pre-Mora.

STAT CORNER

29

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	33.5 ppg	6	34
Rushing	209.5 ypg	2	32
Passing	258.3 ypg	9	42
Total	467.8 ypg	4	22
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	7	75
Rushing	147.9 ypg	7	42
Passing	250.6 ypg	4	93
Total	398.5 ypg	3	63
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
0	0.00	8	59

OFFENSE After leading UCLA's offense for three years and breaking a number of records in the process, quarterback Brett Hundley is now off to the NFL, leaving an otherwise well-established offense with a gaping hole at its most important position. But never fear — the Bruins have a pretty good contingency plan. They'll almost certainly replace Hundley with the nation's top quarterback recruit, Josh Rosen, who conveniently operated an offense similar to UCLA's while in high school. Rosen still needs to win the job over backups Jerry Neuheisel and Asiantii Woulard, but while coaches may not admit he's already a shoe-in for the spot, his talent is light years ahead of the competition.

Rosen may take some time to get acclimated, but he'll have an experienced offensive line that returns all five starters to protect him and a running back (Paul Perkins) who led the Pac-12 in rushing yards last season to lean on. Building on last year's breakout, Perkins should be the centerpiece of UCLA's offense that returns nine of 11 starters. As lead wideout Jordan Payton says, Rosen will get the keys to "a Ferrari." The question is what he does with them.

DEFENSE The defense's leadership, at all three levels, is off to the NFL, and UCLA may have some trouble adjusting early to life without linebacker Eric Kendricks, defensive end Owa Odighizuwa and cornerback Anthony Jefferson. But talent-wise, the Bruins will be as strong as ever on defense.

Linebacker Myles Jack returns for what could be his final season at UCLA, and he'll shift inside in order to maximize his impact. The Bruins will have two up-and-coming pass-rushing threats to mold this fall, as outside linebacker Deon Hollins and defensive end Takkarist McKinley try to build on their strong finishes to last season. Hollins, who had six sacks in UCLA's last four games in 2014 to finish with nine on the season, is the unit's most likely breakout candidate, if he's able to harness his devastatingly quick first step.

The secondary is the biggest question mark, but tough-yet-undersized sophomore safety Jaleel Wadood looks like a star in the making. If UCLA can establish a pass rush early in the season and leadership emerges, the defense could be a force.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn has taken his fair share of criticism in the past few seasons, but after finishing last season on a high note — making 13 of his last 14 field goals — he should be a more consistent option from long range as a senior. Consistency was also a problem for punter Matt Mengel, who was forced into action after little experience with the position. Another year of experience should do him good. The Bruins have looked very good at times in the return game, but returner Ishmael Adams faded a bit down the stretch in his first full season in the role. With a new special teams coordinator in promoted assistant Scott White, we'll have to wait and see if UCLA's kickoff and return units can return to their dominance from 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS Few teams nationally can say they return 17 of 22 starters from a year ago, and none of those teams had as good of a season in 2014 as UCLA did. And while those absences are sure to loom large — especially in the case of Hundley and Kendricks — experience is finally on the Bruins' side. The defense should be fine, and if Perkins can build on his impressive sophomore season, then the offense should be able to take some pressure off Rosen.

But ultimately, UCLA's fate will likely rest on its freshman quarterback's shoulders, and few teams historically have had wild success with that approach.


MYLES JACK

"Everyone on the West Coast saw the (Josh) Rosen kid in high school, and he's going to be really good."

-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	9	**Jordan Payton (Sr.)**	3	Jordan Lasley (Fr.)	
WR	82	**Eldridge Massington (So.)**	83	Alex Van Dyke (So.)	
SLOT	7	Devin Fuller (Sr.)	14	Mossi Johnson (So.)	
LT	68	**Conor McDermott (So.)**	77	Kolton Miller (Fr.)	
LG	51	**Alex Redmond (Jr.)**	76	Kenny Lacy (So.)	
C	54	**Jake Brendel (Sr.)**	52	**Scott Quessenberry (Jr.)**	
RG	74	**Caleb Benenoch (Jr.)**	59	Zach Bateman (Jr.)	
RT	70	Simon Goines (Jr.)		Andre James (Fr.)	
TE	18	**Thomas Duarte (Jr.)**		Chris Clark (Fr.)	
QB	3	Josh Rosen (Fr.)	11	Jerry Neuheisel (Jr.)	
RB	24	**Paul Perkins (Jr.)**	23	Nate Starks (So.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	98	Takkarist McKinley (Jr.)	91	Jacob Tuioti-Mariner (So.)	
DT	47	**Eddie Vanderdoes (Jr.)**	99	Matt Dickerson (So.)	
NT	97	**Kenny Clark (Jr.)**	96	Eli Ankou (Jr.)	
OLB	58	**Deon Hollins (Jr.)**		Keisean Lucier-South (Fr.)	
ILB	30	**Myles Jack (Jr.)**	12	Jayon Brown (Jr.)	
ILB	42	Kenny Young (So.)	44	Isaako Savaiinaea (Jr.)	
OLB	51	Aaron Wallace (Sr.)	46	Kene Orjioke (Jr.)	
CB	10	**Fabian Moreau (Sr.)**	25	Denzel Fisher (Fr.)	
CB	9	Marcus Rios (Jr.)	1	**Ishmael Adams (Jr.)**	
S	3	Randall Goforth (Jr.)	6	Adarius Pickett (Fr.)	
S	2	**Jaleel Wadood (So.)**	21	**Tahaan Goodman (Jr.)**	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Ka'imi Fairbairn (Sr.)	KR	1	Ishmael Adams (Jr.)
P	19	Matt Mengel (Sr.)	PR	1	Ishmael Adams (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jerry Neuheisel, 39-26-194-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Paul Perkins, 251 att., 1,575 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Payton, 67 rec., 954 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Myles Jack, 88
Sacks: Deon Hollins, 9.0
Interceptions: Ishmael Adams, 2; Marcus Rios, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

USC TROJANS

National Forecast: 6
Pac-12 South Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Steve Sarkisian
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 43-33 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Clay Helton
Defensive Coordinator: Justin Wilcox
Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (93,607)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	Arkansas State
12	Idaho
19	Stanford
26	at Arizona State
OCTOBER	
8	Washington
17	at Notre Dame
24	Utah
31	at California
NOVEMBER	
7	Arizona
13	at Colorado
21	at Oregon
28	UCLA

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 6-3)

Aug.	30	Fresno State	W	52-13
Sept.	6	at Stanford	W	13-10
Sept.	13	at Boston College	L	31-37
Sept.	27	Oregon State	W	35-10
Oct.	4	Arizona State	L	34-38
Oct.	11	at Arizona	W	28-26
Oct.	18	Colorado	W	56-28
Oct.	25	at Utah	L	21-24
Nov.	1	at Washington State	W	44-17
Nov.	13	California	W	38-30
Nov.	22	at UCLA	L	20-38
Nov.	29	Notre Dame	W	49-14
Dec.	27	vs. Nebraska #	W	45-42

#Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Iman Marshall, CB, Long Beach, CA
2. Rasheem Green, DT, Los Angeles, CA
3. Chuma Edoga, OT, Atlanta, GA
4. Osa Masina, LB, Salt Lake City, UT
5. Ronald Jones, RB, McKinney, TX
6. Porter Gustin, LB, Elk Ridge, UT
7. John Houston Jr., LB, Carson, CA
8. Marvell Tell III, S, Pasadena, CA
9. Jacob Daniel, DT, Fresno, CA
10. Ricky Town, QB, Thousand Oaks, CA

Rushing yards allowed by USC in its loss to Boston College. The Trojans gave up 26.1 percent of their season total in that one game.

STAT CORNER

452

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	35.8 ppg	4	22
Rushing	160.9 ypg	7	66
Passing	296.6 ypg	4	15
Total	457.5 ypg	6	29
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	25.2 ppg	5	45
Rushing	133.4 ypg	3	26
Passing	274.5 ypg	8	115
Total	407.9 ypg	5	76
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+11	+0.85	4	11

OFFENSE This could be one of the more explosive offenses in the country. Quarterback Cody Kessler returns from one of the better under-the-radar seasons in recent memory. All he did as a junior was complete 69.7 percent of his passes while throwing for 39 touchdowns and only five interceptions. With the gifted Nelson Agholor gone, Kessler's new go-to receiver will be JuJu Smith, who was a Freshman All-American a year ago. Then there is Steven Mitchell, the shifty new slot receiver who might have been the MVP of spring practice, as well as Adoree' Jackson, another Freshman All-American who might be the most exciting two-way player in America. A full-time starter at cornerback, Jackson also will be utilized more as a pass catcher, especially after his breakout game against Nebraska in the Holiday Bowl.

The Trojans will miss Javorious "Buck" Allen and his 1,489 yards rushing at tailback, but they hope to feature Justin Davis, a slashing, breakaway type, and Tre Madden, who likes to rumble between the tackles, as a new complementary pair. Highly regarded freshman Ronald Jones should also work into the mix, along with Soma Vainuku, an intimidating 270-pound fullback who could be the short yardage answer.

The offensive line might be the deepest and strongest unit on the team. Max Tuerk is an All-Pac-12 center. He will be flanked by a pair of Freshman All-Americans in Viane Talamaivao at guard and Toa Lobendahn at tackle. Guard Damien Mama and tackle Zach Banner, a couple of beefy, 350-plus pounders, round out a group that is as active as it is physical.

DEFENSE You can't lose the best defensive end in the country and a captain and spiritual leader at linebacker and not feel it. All-American Leonard Williams and leading tackler Hayes Pullard will be difficult to replace, especially for a team that often struggled late in games. But the Trojans are not without their share of talent on defense. The new all-star candidate is Su'a Cravens, who led the team in interceptions (three) and tackles for a loss (17.0) last year as an All-Pac-12 hybrid outside linebacker/safety.

Up front, senior Antwaun Woods will try to set the tone at nose tackle. Delvon Simmons, Claude Pelon and Scott Felix, more of an OLB/end hybrid, round out a solid, if unspectacular, group.

The linebackers joining Cravens will be Lamar Dawson, probably USC's most improved player this spring, and the always aggressive Anthony Sarao.

The secondary is led by the aforementioned Jackson, who is among the country's finest cover cornerbacks. Kevon Seymour, coming off a fine spring, will start at the other corner. The starting safeties are likely to be the improving John Plattenburg and Leon McQuay III, although true freshman Iman Marshall should quickly work his way into the rotation.

SPECIALISTS Solid senior Kris Albarado is in his third year as USC's punter. But there is a vacancy at placekicker, where newcomers Matt Boermeester and Alex Wood will battle for the job in fall practice. Boermeester will enter with a small advantage.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off a 9–4 season that left most Trojans boosters feeling mildly disappointed, coach Steve Sarkisian will face the pressure of huge expectations this fall. The offense should score plenty of points. But it is the defense — which was mauled by the likes of Boston College, Arizona State and UCLA a year ago — that must show significant improvement, and that won't be easy without the departed Williams and Pullard. With Kessler, Smith, Jackson and Co., spectacular plays should be plentiful. But in the end, this team will go only as far as the defense takes it.



CODY KESSLER

Peter Brouillet

"They may have the best player in the country at a few positions, including quarterback."
-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	9	**JuJu Smith (So.)**	15	Isaac Whitney (Jr.)	
WR	1	Darreus Rogers (Jr.)	18	Ajene Harris (So.)	
FL	7	Steven Mitchell (So.)	2	Adoree' Jackson (So.)	
LT	50	**Toa Lobendahn (So.)**	72	**Chad Wheeler (Jr.)**	
LG	51	Damien Mama (So.)	77	Chris Brown (Fr.)	
C	75	**Max Tuerk (Sr.)**	62	Khaliel Rodgers (So.)	
RG	60	**Viane Talamaivao (So.)**	68	Jordan Simmons (Jr.)	
RT	73	**Zach Banner (Jr.)**	70	Chuma Edoga (Fr.)	
TE	88	Jalen Cope-Fitzpatrick (Jr.)	49	Connor Spears (So.)	
QB	6	**Cody Kessler (Sr.)**	4	Max Browne (So.)	
RB	22	Justin Davis (Jr.)	23	Tre Madden (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	52	**Delvon Simmons (Sr.)**	44	Malik Dorton (Fr.)	
NT	99	**Antwaun Woods (Sr.)**	98	Cody Temple (Sr.)	
DE	90	Claude Pelon (Sr.)	79	Jeff Miller (Jr.)	
OLB	47	Scott Felix (Jr.)	59	Don Hill (Fr.)	
ILB	56	**Anthony Sarao (Sr.)**	34	Olajuwon Tucker (So.)	
ILB	55	Lamar Dawson (Sr.)	35	Cameron Smith (Fr.)	
OLB	21	**Su'a Cravens (Jr.)**	18	Quinton Powell (Jr.)	
CB	2	**Adoree' Jackson (So.)**	23	Jonathan Lockett (So.)	
CB	13	**Kevon Seymour (Sr.)**	25	Lamont Simmons (Fr.)	
SS	24	John Plattenburg (So.)	37	Matt Lopes (So.)	
FS	22	**Leon McQuay III (Jr.)**		Iman Marshall (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Matt Boermeester (So.)	KR	2	Adoree' Jackson (So.)
P	35	Kris Albarado (Sr.)	PR	7	Steven Mitchell (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Kessler, 452-315-3,826-5, 39 TDs
Rushing: Justin Davis, 129 att., 595 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: JuJu Smith, 54 rec., 724 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Anthony Sarao, 74
Sacks: Su'a Cravens, 5.0
Interceptions: Su'a Cravens, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UTAH UTES

National Forecast: 31
Pac-12 South Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Kyle Whittingham
Record at School: 85-43 (10 years)
Career Record: 85-43 (10 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Aaron Roderick, Jim Harding
Defensive Coordinator: John Pease
Salt Lake City, UT
Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Michigan
12 Utah State
19 at Fresno State
26 at Oregon

OCTOBER
10 California
17 Arizona State
24 at USC
31 Oregon State

NOVEMBER
7 at Washington
14 at Arizona
21 UCLA
28 Colorado

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 5-4)

Aug.	28	Idaho State		W	56-14
Sept.	6	Fresno State		W	59-27
Sept.	20	at Michigan		W	26-10
Sept.	27	Washington State		L	27-28
Oct.	4	at UCLA		W	30-28
Oct.	16	at Oregon State	(ot)	W	29-23
Oct.	25	USC		W	24-21
Nov.	1	at Arizona State	(ot)	L	16-19
Nov.	8	Oregon		L	27-51
Nov.	15	at Stanford	(2ot)	W	20-17
Nov.	22	Arizona		L	10-42
Nov.	29	at Colorado		W	38-34
Dec.	20	vs. Colorado State #		W	45-10

#Las Vegas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cory Butler, DB, Compton, CA*
2. Darrin Paulo, OL, Sacramento, CA
3. George Wilson, WR, Tustin, CA
4. Deniko Carter, WR, Baltimore, MD*
5. Alfred Smith, WR, Destrehan, LA
6. Chris Hart, DE, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
7. Marcel Brooks-Brown, RB, Rio Linda, CA
8. Philip Afia, WR, Chino, CA
9. Joe Williams, RB, Allentown, PA*
10. Johnny Capra, OL, Auburn, CA

*junior college transfer

Change in Utah's turnover margin from 2013 (-9) to 2014 (+5). That played a large role in the Utes' four-win turnaround.

STAT CORNER
+14

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	31.3 ppg	8	49
Rushing	190.4 ypg	3	39
Passing	197.7 ypg	12	93
Total	388.1 ypg	12	76
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.9 ppg	4	42
Rushing	146.8 ypg	6	41
Passing	246.6 ypg	2	90
Total	393.5 ypg	2	58
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+5	+0.38	6	37

OFFENSE Utah quarterback Travis Wilson's career was in question after the 2013 season due to an intracranial condition, but he was cleared to play and earned the starting job in 2014. Wilson's up-and-down performance led to Kendal Thompson replacing him as the starter twice during the season, before Thompson's knee injury enabled Wilson to regain the position through the Utes' Las Vegas Bowl victory over Colorado State.

Wilson succeeded in cutting down his interceptions from 16 as a sophomore to five as a junior, but he never seemed comfortable with former offensive coordinator Dave Christensen, who's now Texas A&M's offensive line coach. Aaron Roderick, promoted as Utah's co-offensive coordinator, wants Wilson to complete a higher percentage of passes. "We're not trying to reinvent what we were doing. We just want to get better at it," Roderick says.

Running back Devontae Booker was a big discovery for the Utes in 2014 as a junior college transfer. Once he established himself as the featured back, he became a consistent force in the Pac-12, averaging 130.1 yards in conference games. Booker is a tough inside runner with explosive speed, and his 1,512-yard total fell just short of the school's single-season record.

Utah will rely heavily on senior receiver Kenneth Scott, who led the team with 48 catches and four touchdowns, including a game-winning reception in overtime at Stanford.

The Utes took a hit when tackle Jeremiah Poutasi entered the NFL Draft as a junior, but they return the bulk of a line that improved in position coach Jim Harding's first season and paved the way for Booker's big year. Left guard Isaac Asiata and center Siaosi Aiono are returning starters who played consistently.

DEFENSE Utah must replace end Nate Orchard, who recorded 18.5 sacks. John Pease, the Utes' new defensive coordinator, hopes that end Hunter Dimick will at least match his 10 sacks from last year, even though he will receive more attention now.

Utah's linebackers were hit with injuries last season, but the coaches pieced things together well enough for the Utes to rank second in the Pac-12 in total defense, allowing 393.5 yards per game. Jared Norris is the group's most productive player, capable of covering receivers and making big hits in the running game. Norris made a team-high 116 tackles, including 13 for a loss.

Cornerback Dominique Hatfield leads Utah's secondary. Converted quarterback Jason Thompson was a surprise in the spring, competing at safety with Marcus Williams.

SPECIALISTS Utah wants to move the ball and score touchdowns, but punting and kicking field goals are the team's biggest strengths. Australian punter Tom Hackett averaged 46.7 yards, and 36 of his 80 punts went inside the 20-yard line. Andy Phillips missed a field goal in an overtime loss at Arizona State, but he was otherwise dependable, finishing 23-of-28 for the season, including 12-of-15 from 40 yards or longer.

FINAL ANALYSIS Utah is getting closer. In their fourth season of Pac-12 membership, the Utes posted their first winning record (5–4) in conference play and competed favorably against nearly every opponent. Coach Kyle Whittingham likes the program's trajectory entering its fifth season in the Pac-12. "We've taken a step forward every year with our depth and talent on the roster, one through 85," he says. "It's still a work in progress … but we feel like last year we made a lot of headway."

In 2015, the Utes hope to overcome a lack of experience at receiver and in the secondary while counting on their senior quarterback to play more consistently as he completes an adventurous career.


DEVONTAE BOOKER

"They're probably the only team in the league that truly doesn't mind playing field position."
-An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	2	**Kenneth Scott (Sr.)**	11		Raelon Singleton (Fr.)
WR	34	Bubba Poole (Sr.)	83		Jameson Field (So.)
WR	9	Tim Patrick (Sr.)	10		Delshawn McClellon (Jr.)
LT	68	**J.J. Dielman (Jr.)**	72		Andrew Albers (Sr.)
LG	54	**Isaac Asiata (Jr.)**	69		Lo Falemaka (So.)
C	60	**Siaosi Aiono (Sr.)**	55		Hiva Lutui (Jr.)
RG	74	Salesi Uhatafe (So.)	75		Nick Nowakowski (Jr.)
RT	52	Sam Tevi (Jr.)	70		Jackson Barton (Fr.)
TE	87	Siale Fakailoatonga (Jr.)	84		Evan Moeai (Sr.)
QB	7	**Travis Wilson (Sr.)**	1		Kendal Thompson (Sr.)
RB	23	**Devontae Booker (Sr.)**			Joe Williams (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	49	**Hunter Dimick (Jr.)**	97		Kylie Fitts (Jr.)
DT	45	Filipo Mokofisi (So.)	98		Viliseni Fauonuku (Sr.)
DT	93	**Lowell Lotulelei (So.)**	90		Stevie Tu'ikolovatu (Jr.)
DE	51	Jason Fanaika (Sr.)	50		Pita Taumoepenu (Jr.)
LB	53	Jason Whittingham (Sr.)	37		Christian Drews (So.)
LB	41	**Jared Norris (Sr.)**	40		Sunia Tauteoli (So.)
LB	13	**Gionni Paul (Sr.)**	43		Uaea Masina (So.)
CB	29	Reginald Porter (Jr.)	14		Brian Allen (Jr.)
CB	15	**Dominique Hatfield (Jr.)**	2		Casey Hughes (Fr.)
S	3	Jason Thompson (Jr.)	20		Marcus Williams (So.)
S	9	Tevin Carter (Sr.)	7		Andre Godfrey (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Andy Phillips (Jr.)	KR	8	Bubba Poole (Sr.)
P	33	Tom Hackett (Sr.)	PR	34	Boobie Hobbs (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Travis Wilson, 313-190-2,170-5, 18 TDs
Rushing: Devontae Booker, 292 att., 1,512 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Kenneth Scott, 48 rec., 506 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Jared Norris, 116
Sacks: Hunter Dimick, 10.0
Interceptions: Gionni Paul, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

SEC PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

	EAST	WEST
1	GEORGIA **BULLDOGS** 10-3, 6-2 SEC	ALABAMA **CRIMSON TIDE** 12-1, 7-1 SEC
2	TENNESSEE **VOLUNTEERS** 8-4, 5-3 SEC	AUBURN **TIGERS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC
3	FLORIDA **GATORS** 8-4, 5-3 SEC	OLE MISS **REBELS** 9-3, 5-3 SEC
4	MISSOURI **TIGERS** 7-5, 3-5 SEC	LSU **TIGERS** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
5	SOUTH CAROLINA **GAMECOCKS** 7-5, 3-5 SEC	ARKANSAS **RAZORBACKS** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
6	KENTUCKY **WILDCATS** 6-6, 2-6 SEC	TEXAS A&M **AGGIES** 7-5, 3-5 SEC
7	VANDERBILT **COMMODORES** 3-9, 0-8 SEC	MISSISSIPPI STATE **BULLDOGS** 7-5, 3-5 SEC

SEC Championship Game: Alabama over Georgia

2014 BOWL RESULTS

Sugar Bowl (CFP semifinal): Ohio State 42, Alabama 35
Orange Bowl: Georgia Tech 49, Mississippi State 34
Peach Bowl: TCU 42, Ole Miss 3
Citrus Bowl: Missouri 33, Minnesota 17
Outback Bowl: Wisconsin 34, Auburn 31, OT
TaxSlayer Bowl: Tennessee 45, Iowa 28
Texas Bowl: Arkansas 31, Texas 7
Belk Bowl: Georgia 37, Louisville 14
Music City Bowl: Notre Dame 31, LSU 28
Liberty Bowl: Texas A&M 45, West Virginia 37
Independence Bowl: South Carolina 24, Miami 21
Birmingham Bowl: Florida 28, East Carolina 20

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff: Alabama vs. Baylor
College Football Playoff: Auburn vs. Ohio State
Sugar Bowl: Georgia vs. TCU
Peach Bowl: Ole Miss vs. Florida State
Citrus Bowl: Tennessee vs. Wisconsin
Outback Bowl: Arkansas vs. Nebraska
TaxSlayer Bowl: Texas A&M vs. Clemson
Texas Bowl: LSU vs. Oklahoma State
Belk Bowl: Florida vs. NC State
Music City Bowl: Missouri vs. Iowa
Liberty Bowl: Mississippi State vs. Texas
Independence Bowl: Kentucky vs. North Carolina
Birmingham Bowl: South Carolina vs. Memphis

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2014 SEC STANDINGS

EAST	SEC	OVERALL	WEST	SEC	OVERALL
Missouri	7-1	11-3	Alabama	7-1	12-2
Georgia	6-2	10-3	Mississippi State	6-2	10-3
Florida	4-4	7-5	Ole Miss	5-3	9-4
Tennessee	3-5	7-6	Auburn	4-4	8-5
South Carolina	3-5	7-6	LSU	4-4	8-5
Kentucky	2-6	5-7	Texas A&M	3-5	8-5
Vanderbilt	0-8	3-9	Arkansas	2-6	7-6

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	8	3	7	5	1	2	5
ARKANSAS	6	2	10	2	8	14	8
AUBURN	2	6	4	3	4	4	7
FLORIDA	10	9	9	14	3	10	2
GEORGIA	9	1	8	1	11	1	4
KENTUCKY	7	10	12	12	14	11	11
LSU	13	4	5	4	6	5	1
MISSOURI	5	7	13	6	9	3	9
MISS. STATE	1	12	6	11	10	9	10
OLE MISS	11	14	2	8	2	13	3
SOUTH CAROLINA	12	11	11	9	12	8	12
TENNESSEE	3	5	3	10	5	6	6
TEXAS A&M	4	8	1	7	7	12	14
VANDERBILT	14	13	14	13	13	7	13

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Alabama 2. Tennessee 3. LSU 4. Georgia 5. Auburn 6. Texas A&M
7. Ole Miss 8. Mississippi State 9. South Carolina 10. Florida
11. Arkansas 12. Missouri 13. Kentucky 14. Vanderbilt



PRESEASON ALL-SEC TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Dak Prescott	6-2	230	Sr.	Mississippi State
RB	Nick Chubb	5-10	228	So.	Georgia
RB	Leonard Fournette	6-1	230	So.	LSU
WR	Laquon Treadwell	6-2	229	Jr.	Ole Miss
WR	D'haquille Williams	6-2	224	Sr.	Auburn
TE	Hunter Henry	6-5	250	Jr.	Arkansas
C	Ryan Kelly	6-5	297	Sr.	Alabama
G	Greg Pyke	6-6	321	Jr.	Georgia
G	Sebastian Tretola	6-5	322	Sr.	Arkansas
T	Cam Robinson	6-6	326	So.	Alabama
T	Laremy Tunsil	6-5	305	Jr.	Ole Miss
AP	Pharoh Cooper	5-11	208	Jr.	South Carolina

First-Team Defense

DE	Derek Barnett	6-3	267	So.	Tennessee
DE	Myles Garrett	6-5	255	So.	Texas A&M
DT	Robert Nkemdiche	6-4	280	Jr.	Ole Miss
DT	A'Shawn Robinson	6-4	312	Jr.	Alabama
LB	Kentrell Brothers	6-1	235	Sr.	Missouri
LB	Jordan Jenkins	6-3	252	Sr.	Georgia
LB	Reggie Ragland	6-2	252	Sr.	Alabama
CB	Vernon Hargreaves III	5-11	198	Jr.	Florida
CB	Jonathan Jones	5-10	181	Sr.	Auburn
S	Jamal Adams	6-0	206	So.	LSU
S	Tony Conner	6-0	217	Jr.	Ole Miss

First-Team Specialists

K	Austin MacGinnis	5-10	175	Jr.	Kentucky
P	JK Scott	6-5	195	So.	Alabama
KR	Darrius Sims	5-9	182	Jr.	Vanderbilt
PR	Isaiah McKenzie	5-8	164	So.	Georgia

Second-Team Offense

QB	Jeremy Johnson	6-5	230	Jr.	Auburn
RB	Derrick Henry	6-3	242	Jr.	Alabama
RB	Jonathan Williams	6-0	224	Sr.	Arkansas
WR	Demarcus Robinson	6-2	197	Jr.	Florida
WR	De'Runnya Wilson	6-5	225	Jr.	Mississippi State
TE	Evan Engram	6-3	227	Jr.	Ole Miss
C	Mike Matthews	6-2	290	Sr.	Texas A&M
G	Alex Kozan	6-4	300	Jr.	Auburn
G	Conner McGovern	6-4	300	Sr.	Missouri
T	Denver Kirkland	6-5	343	Jr.	Arkansas
T	Dan Skipper	6-10	307	Jr.	Arkansas
AP	Jalen Hurd	6-3	227	So.	Tennessee

Second-Team Defense

DE	Jonathan Allen	6-3	283	Jr.	Alabama
DE	Jonathan Bullard	6-3	277	Sr.	Florida
DT	Harold Brantley	6-3	280	Jr.	Missouri
DT	Chris Jones	6-5	308	Jr.	Mississippi State
LB	Leonard Floyd	6-4	230	Jr.	Georgia
LB	Curt Maggitt	6-3	251	Sr.	Tennessee
LB	Antonio Morrison	6-1	225	Sr.	Florida
CB	Cameron Sutton	6-1	190	Jr.	Tennessee
CB	Tre'Davious White	5-11	191	Jr.	LSU
S	Jalen Mills	6-0	194	Sr.	LSU
S	Brian Randolph	6-0	209	Sr.	Tennessee

Second-Team Specialists

K	Marshall Morgan	6-3	200	Sr.	Georgia
P	Drew Kaser	6-3	210	Sr.	Texas A&M
KR	Stanley Williams	5-9	196	Jr.	Kentucky
PR	Tre'Davious White	5-11	191	Jr.	LSU

FLORIDA GATORS

National Forecast: 26
SEC East Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Jim McElwain
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 22-16 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Nussmeier
Defensive Coordinator: Geoff Collins
Gainesville, FL
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 New Mexico State
12 East Carolina
19 at Kentucky
26 Tennessee

OCTOBER
3 Ole Miss
10 at Missouri
17 at LSU
31 vs. Georgia #

NOVEMBER
7 Vanderbilt
14 at South Carolina
21 Florida Atlantic
28 Florida State

#Jacksonville, FL

2014 RESULTS (7-5, 4-4)

Sept.	6	Eastern Michigan		W	65-0
Sept.	13	Kentucky	(ot)	W	36-30
Sept.	20	at Alabama		L	21-42
Oct.	4	at Tennessee		W	10-9
Oct.	11	LSU		L	27-30
Oct.	18	Missouri		L	13-42
Nov.	1	vs. Georgia %		W	38-20
Nov.	8	at Vanderbilt		W	34-10
Nov.	15	South Carolina	(ot)	L	20-23
Nov.	22	Eastern Kentucky		W	52-3
Nov.	29	at Florida State		L	19-24
Jan.	3	vs. East Carolina #		W	28-20

%Jacksonville #Birmingham Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Martez Ivey, OT, Apopka, FL
2. CeCe Jefferson, DE, Glen St. Mary, FL
3. Jordan Scarlett, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
4. Jordan Cronkrite, RB, Miami, FL
5. D'Anfernee McGriff, RB, Tallahassee, FL
6. Antonio Callaway, WR, Miami, FL
7. Tyler Jordan, C, Jacksonville, FL
8. Chris Williamson, DB, Gainesville, GA
9. Daniel Imatorbhebhe, TE, Suwanee, GA
10. Jabari Zuniga, DE, Marietta, GA

STAT CORNER

4.85

Yards per play averaged by the Florida offense against SEC opponents last season. That ranked 13th in the league.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.3 ppg	8	53
Rushing	187.7 ypg	7	41
Passing	179.9 ypg	12	104
Total	367.6 ypg	12	93
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	21.1 ppg	7	20
Rushing	116.2 ypg	3	13
Passing	213.6 ypg	7	41
Total	329.8 ypg	5	15
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+6	+0.50	7	30

OFFENSE The home to Steve Spurrier's Fun 'n' Gun, Urban Meyer's spread offense and three Heisman-winning quarterbacks ranked last in the SEC in passing in 2012, last in scoring in 2013 and 12th in total offense in 2014.

Florida hired Jim McElwain from Colorado State to revive its beleaguered attack. Unlike former coach Will Muschamp, McElwain has an offensive background. All eyes will be on his decision between quarterbacks Will Grier and Treon Harris. As a freshman in 2014, Harris' dual-threat abilities helped him go 4–2 as a starter. Grier, who redshirted last year, is a pocket passer better suited to McElwain's scheme, which favors high-percentage throws with some vertical passes off play-action mixed in. But Harris's running ability could be invaluable behind an inexperienced offensive line.

Florida finished the spring with just six healthy scholarship linemen. It is critical center Trip Thurman returns from a shoulder injury, sophomore left tackle David Sharpe develops and incoming freshman Martez Ivey lives up to his billing as the nation's No. 1 offensive line recruit.

Without a strong line, McElwain will struggle to establish a physical running game, the backbone of his offenses during four seasons at Alabama (2008-11). The past two seasons, Colorado State averaged close to five yards per carry. Florida tailback Kelvin Taylor hopes to break out in his third season, while incoming freshman Jordan Scarlett should make an immediate impact.

Wide receiver Demarcus Robinson and tight end Jake McGee should be the go-to receivers, but the rest of the lot is unproven. Converted tailback Brandon Powell turned heads during spring practices until a recurring foot injury sidelined him.

DEFENSE For all of Muschamp's failings, fielding a dominant defense was never an issue. The Gators finished the past four regular seasons ranked among the nation's top-10 defenses. New coordinator Geoff Collins does not envision a letdown. "We want to be one of the best defenses in the country," he says.

Many pieces are in place, beginning with one of the nation's most talented secondaries. Two-time All-SEC cornerback Vernon Hargreaves III anchors the Gators' star-studded group that also returns three other starters. "I am really impressed with the amount of talent they have collected at the position," McElwain marveled during the offseason.

Meanwhile, Florida's front seven has some holes. The Gators' top two linebackers, Antonio Morrison and Jarrad Davis, continue to recover from knee injuries sustained late last season.

Jon Bullard's decision to return for his senior season was huge for the front four. He and Bryan Cox Jr. are the only Florida linemen who have started a college game. Tackles Taven Bryan and Khairi Clark, both redshirt freshmen, earned raves during the spring.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Austin Hardin must become reliable after hitting just 11-of-22 field goals in 2013 and 2014. Punter Johnny Townsend earned SEC All-Freshman honors in 2013 and might be an upgrade over Kyle Christy, a former Ray Guy Award finalist. Florida looks to replace returner Andre Debose, who had five return touchdowns at Florida.

FINAL ANALYSIS Muschamp's failure to identify an offensive coordinator or quarterback doomed him, leaving McElwain with a program that won just 11 games the past two seasons. The 53-year-old immediately set out to upgrade Florida's offensive talent and address lagging facilities. Faced with a massive rebuild, McElwain will need time to field an SEC East contender at a school where championships were once the standard.



VERNON HARGREAVES III

"Who are their playmakers? The Demarcus Robinson kid has a chance to be pretty special at wideout, but who else?"

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

X	11	**Demarcus Robinson (Jr.)**	18	C.J. Worton (So.)	
Z	5	Ahmad Fulwood (Jr.)	85	Chris Thompson (Jr.)	
F	4	Brandon Powell (So.)	9	**Latroy Pittman (Sr.)**	
LT	78	David Sharpe (So.)	53	Kavaris Harkless (Fr.)	
LG	51	Antonio Riles (So.)		Tyler Jordan (Fr.)	
C	63	**Trip Thurman (Sr.)**	54	Cameron Dillard (So.)	
RG	52	Travaris Dorsey (Fr.)	77	Andrew Mike (Fr.)	
RT		Martez Ivey (Fr.)	53	Kavaris Harkless (Fr.)	
TE	83	Jake McGee (Sr.)	30	DeAndre Goolsby (So.)	
QB	7	Will Grier (Fr.)	3	**Treon Harris (So.)**	
RB	21	Kelvin Taylor (Jr.)	22	Adam Lane (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	14	Alex McCalister (Jr.)	94	**Bryan Cox Jr. (Jr.)**
NT	91	Joey Ivie (Jr.)	54	Khairi Clark (Fr.)
DT	57	Caleb Brantley (So.)	93	Taven Bryan (Fr.)
DE	90	**Jon Bullard (Sr.)**		CeCe Jefferson (Fr.)
MLB	3	**Antonio Morrison (Sr.)**	34	Alex Anzalone (Jr.)
WLB	40	Jarrad Davis (Jr.)	13	Daniel McMillian (Jr.)
CB	1	**Vernon Hargreaves III (Jr.)**	6	Quincy Wilson (So.)
CB	31	Jalen Tabor (So.)	15	Deiondre Porter (Fr.)
S	42	**Keanu Neal (Jr.)**	7	Duke Dawson (So.)
S	20	**Marcus Maye (Jr.)**	26	Marcell Harris (So.)
NB	24	**Brian Poole (Sr.)**	6	Quincy Wilson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Austin Hardin (Jr.)	KR	11	Demarcus Robinson (Jr.)
P	19	Johnny Townsend (So.)	PR	1	Vernon Hargreaves III (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Treon Harris, 111-55-1,019-4, 9 TDs
Rushing: Kelvin Taylor, 116 att., 565 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Demarcus Robinson, 53 rec., 810 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Antonio Morrison, 101
Sacks: Alex McCalister, 6.0
Interceptions: Brian Poole, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Mike DeHoog

GEORGIA BULLDOGS

National Forecast: 10
SEC East Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Mark Richt
Record at School: 136-48 (14 years)
Career Record: 136-48 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Schottenheimer
Defensive Coordinator: Jeremy Pruitt
Athens, GA • Sanford Stadium (92,746)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	UL Monroe	
12	at Vanderbilt	
19	South Carolina	
26	Southern	
OCTOBER		
3	Alabama	
10	at Tennessee	
17	Missouri	
31	vs. Florida #	
NOVEMBER		
7	Kentucky	
14	at Auburn	
21	Georgia Southern	
28	at Georgia Tech	

#Jacksonville, FL

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Aug.	30	Clemson	W	45-21
Sept.	13	at South Carolina	L	35-38
Sept.	20	Troy	W	66-0
Sept.	27	Tennessee	W	35-32
Oct.	4	Vanderbilt	W	44-17
Oct.	11	at Missouri	W	34-0
Oct.	18	vs. Arkansas %	W	45-32
Nov.	1	vs. Florida $	L	20-38
Nov.	8	at Kentucky	W	63-31
Nov.	15	Auburn	W	34-7
Nov.	22	Charleston Southern	W	55-9
Nov.	29	Georgia Tech (ot)	L	24-30
Dec.	30	vs. Louisville #	W	37-14

#Belk Bowl %Little Rock $Jacksonville

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Trent Thompson, DT, Albany, GA
2. Terry Godwin, WR, Hogansville, GA
3. Roquan Smith, ILB, Montezuma, GA
4. Jonathan Ledbetter, DL, Tucker, GA
5. Natrez Patrick, LB, Atlanta, GA
6. D'Andre Walker, LB, Fairburn, GA
7. Rashad Roundtree, S, Evans, GA
8. Rico McGraw, CB, Nashville, TN
9. Chauncey Rivers, DE, Stone Mountain, GA
10. Jackson Harris, TE, Columbia, TN

STAT CORNER

+8.7

UGA's field position margin, third in the country. The Dawgs' special teams unit was as consistent as any in the SEC.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	41.3 ppg	1	8
Rushing	257.8 ypg	1	11
Passing	199.9 ypg	9	88
Total	457.8 ypg	4	28
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	20.7 ppg	5	16
Rushing	166.8 ypg	8	61
Passing	170.4 ypg	2	5
Total	337.2 ypg	6	17
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+16	+1.23	1	4

OFFENSE It's a season of change and uncertainty for Georgia's offense, which has been among the nation's most prolific this decade. The only constant is the running game. Nick Chubb rushed for 1,547 yards as a true freshman, and he backed up Todd Gurley for five games. Chubb is back, as is fellow sophomore Sony Michel and junior Keith Marshall, both of whom battled injuries last year. Georgia leaned heavily on its running game last year, and there's no reason to think it won't again, so Chubb could make a run at the Heisman.

It also helps that four starters are back from an offensive line that emerged as a strength last season.

Those are the knowns. The unknown is Georgia's new offensive coordinator, Brian Schottenheimer, and how his NFL breeding will translate to the college game. Another unknown is at quarterback, where for the first time in nearly a decade Georgia entered the summer without knowing who the starter would be.

Sophomore Brice Ramsey has the strongest arm, while junior Faton Bauta offers mobility and better accuracy. The competition could carry well into the preseason. The receiver spot is also a concern, with injury-plagued senior Malcolm Mitchell the only proven commodity. So for plenty of reasons, the passing game in general is a concern heading into 2015.

DEFENSE Georgia's defense saw marked improvement last year under a revamped coaching staff, and coordinator Jeremy Pruitt was rewarded with a raise up to $1.3 million annually. But there's still plenty of work for Pruitt to do.

The cause was helped when outside linebackers Leonard Floyd and Jordan Jenkins elected to return for one more year. That gives Georgia one of the best pairs of outside rushers in the country. Throw in Lorenzo Carter, the dynamic sophomore, and it's a fearsome trio.

Trent Thompson, rated the nation's No. 1 overall recruit by 247Sports, should bolster a defensive line that has been solid but lacked star power. If Thompson lives up to his potential right away, Georgia could have one of the best front sevens in the country.

The questions are at inside linebacker and cornerback, where longtime starters graduated. If playmakers can emerge there, Pruitt will be ecstatic. Otherwise he's just hoping for dependability.

The past few years, Georgia could have been a national contender with a better defense. The talent on this side of the ball is starting to catch up with Georgia's offense. It's not quite enough on paper to make this a preseason top-10 defense, but the potential is there.

SPECIALISTS Isaiah McKenzie was recruited to give Georgia a home-run threat on special teams, and the 5'8" speedster delivered as a freshman last year. He returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns and will be a threat to equal or exceed that this season. Marshall Morgan also gives Georgia one of the better kickers in the country, as he's converted 84 percent of his field-goal attempts the past two seasons. The question is at punter, where senior Collin Barber (career average of 41.5 yards) has been inconsistent.

FINAL ANALYSIS Once again, Georgia has the talent to make a run at the SEC title and the College Football Playoff. The question is whether the offense can be as good despite the changes, and whether the defense continues to improve. If both happen, the Bulldogs will have a special season. If not, the Bulldogs should still have enough to have a solid season. But that will do little to allay a fan base that has tired of being good, but not great.



NICK CHUBB

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

"The QB situation is a big unknown. Will he be a guy who has to make plays or a guy they ask to just not get them beat?"

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	26	Malcolm Mitchell (Sr.)	81	Reggie Davis (Jr.)	
WR	16	Isaiah McKenzie (So.)		Terry Godwin (Fr.)	
LT	71	**John Theus (Sr.)**	65	Kendall Baker (Fr.)	
LG	54	**Brandon Kublanow (Jr.)**	55	Dyshon Sims (So.)	
C	77	Isaiah Wynn (So.)	66	Hunter Long (Sr.)	
RG	73	**Greg Pyke (Jr.)**	70	Aulden Bynum (So.)	
RT	75	**Kolton Houston (Sr.)**		Patrick Allen (Fr.)	
TE	83	**Jeb Blazevich (So.)**	87	Jay Rome (Sr.)	
QB	12	Brice Ramsey (So.)	10	Faton Bauta (Jr.)	
FB	48	Quayvon Hicks (Sr.)	41	Christian Payne (So.)	
RB	27	**Nick Chubb (So.)**	1	Sony Michel (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	58	Sterling Bailey (Sr.)	88	Jonathan Ledbetter (Fr.)	
DT		Trent Thompson (Fr.)	93	Chris Mayes (Sr.)	
DE	91	Josh Dawson (Sr.)		Chauncey Rivers (Fr.)	
OLB	84	**Leonard Floyd (Jr.)**	17	Davin Bellamy (So.)	
ILB	45	Reggie Carter (Jr.)	51	Jake Ganus (Sr.)	
ILB	42	Tim Kimbrough (Jr.)	6	Natrez Patrick (Fr.)	
OLB	59	**Jordan Jenkins (Sr.)**	7	Lorenzo Carter (So.)	
CB	14	Malkom Parrish (So.)	35	**Aaron Davis (So.)**	
CB	37	**Devin Bowman (Sr.)**	19	Jarvis Wilson (Fr.)	
SS	20	**Quincy Mauger (Jr.)**		Juwuan Briscoe (Fr.)	
FS	24	**Dominick Sanders (So.)**	9	Reggie Wilkerson (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Marshall Morgan (Sr.)	KR	16	Isaiah McKenzie (So.)
P	32	Collin Barber (Sr.)	PR	16	Isaiah McKenzie (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brice Ramsey, 39-24-333-2, 3 TDs
Rushing: Nick Chubb, 219 att., 1,547 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Malcolm Mitchell, 31 rec., 248 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Jenkins, 70
Sacks: Leonard Floyd, 6.0
Interceptions: Quincy Mauger, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

National Forecast: 55
SEC East Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Mark Stoops
Record at School: 7-17 (2 years)
Career Record: 7-17 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Shannon Dawson
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Eliot
Lexington, KY
Commonwealth Stadium (61,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	UL Lafayette
12	at South Carolina
19	Florida
26	Missouri
OCTOBER	
3	Eastern Kentucky
15	Auburn
24	at Mississippi State
31	Tennessee
NOVEMBER	
7	at Georgia
14	at Vanderbilt
21	Charlotte
28	Louisville

2014 RESULTS (5-7, 2-6)

Aug.	30	Tennessee-Martin		W	59-14
Sept.	6	Ohio		W	20-3
Sept.	13	at Florida	(3ot)	L	30-36
Sept.	27	Vanderbilt		W	17-7
Oct.	4	South Carolina		W	45-38
Oct.	11	UL Monroe		W	48-14
Oct.	18	at LSU		L	3-41
Oct.	25	Mississippi State		L	31-45
Nov.	1	at Missouri		L	10-20
Nov.	8	Georgia		L	31-63
Nov.	15	at Tennessee		L	16-50
Nov.	29	at Louisville		L	40-44

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Eli Brown, LB, Bowling Green, KY
2. C.J. Conrad, TE, LaGrange, OH
3. Jordan Jones, LB, Youngstown, OH
4. Courtney Miggins, DT, Lithonia, GA*
5. Marcus Walker, S, Lake Wales, FL
6. George Asafo-Adjei, OL, West Chester, OH
7. Jabari Greenwood, WR, Washington, DC
8. Kai Beckham, CB, Trotwood, OH
9. Logan Stenberg, OL, Madison, AL
10. Tavin Richardson, WR, Duncan, SC

*junior college transfer

Patrick Towles' completion percentage over the final six games. He completed 57.3 percent during UK's 5–1 start.

STAT CORNER

52.2

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	29.2 ppg	9	60
Rushing	153.2 ypg	11	77
Passing	231.2 ypg	6	63
Total	384.3 ypg	10	79
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	31.3 ppg	13	93
Rushing	191.2 ypg	12	89
Passing	215.8 ypg	8	43
Total	406.9 ypg	11	75
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+8	+0.67	2	19

OFFENSE When coordinator Neal Brown left to become the head coach at Troy after last season, Mark Stoops wanted to maintain continuity, so he grabbed another branch from the "Air Raid" coaching tree that began blooming at UK in the late 1990s with Hal Mumme and Mike Leach. Stoops hired West Virginia OC Shannon Dawson, who spent four years under Dana Holgorsen.

In his first spring at Kentucky, Dawson earned praise for his work with quarterbacks Patrick Towles and Drew Barker, and for the balance and creativity of his attack. It produced five touchdowns in the Cats' final scrimmage of the spring.

Dawson has two prototypical prospects — and former four-star recruits — to choose from at QB. Towles (6'5", 241) and Barker (6'3", 221) battled to a near draw in spring, but as a junior who started every game and produced more than 3,000 total yards last fall, Towles has the edge in experience.

There's more talent around the QBs than any point in recent memory. Sophomore tailback Stanley "Boom" Williams had 1,159 all-purpose yards last season, including three touchdown runs of 50-plus yards. His backup is Jojo Kemp, who had 131 yards and three touchdowns against South Carolina last season.

Junior wideout Ryan Timmons (874 career yards) is joined by a quartet of sophomore receivers — big targets Blake Bone and Dorian Baker and breakaway threats Garrett Johnson and Jeff Badet — plus true freshman tight end C.J. Conrad, an early enrollee who looked like a legitimate threat this spring.

Four starters are back on an offensive line that is the deepest and most physically imposing of Stoops' three-year tenure.

DEFENSE Replacing star ends Bud Dupree and Za'Darius Smith won't be easy, but Kentucky has upgraded its talent elsewhere. Senior nose tackle Melvin Lewis, a 6'4", 342-pound former junior college transfer, will anchor the line, and Stoops expects a breakout year from linebacker Ryan Flannigan, another transfer in his second season with the Wildcats.

Former four-star recruit Jason Hatcher, a junior who waited his turn behind Dupree, is ready for prime time at outside linebacker in what has morphed into a full-time 3-4 defense.

Senior free safety A.J. Stamps is back after a strong debut season at Kentucky in which he intercepted a team-high four passes. He'll lead a group that includes versatile veterans Blake McClain, Marcus McWilson and Kendall Randolph.

Stoops remains concerned about his corners, but at least he has experienced options there. Seniors Cody Quinn and Fred Tiller have 47 starts and 29 pass breakups between them. But there's room for a newcomer to break into the lineup.

SPECIALISTS The Cats boast two of the most reliable legs in the SEC in senior punter Landon Foster and sophomore placekicker Austin MacGinnis. Foster averaged 42.6 yards per punt last season, including a career-best 60-yarder. MacGinnis earned Freshman All-America honors.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a critical season for Stoops and Kentucky. The administration has given him the resources — huge raises for him and his staff, a $120 million stadium renovation that opens this fall and a $45 million practice facility under construction — and Year 3 is time to deliver results.

The positive vibes of a 5–1 start last fall vanished with the Wildcats' 0–6 finish. But after three straight top-40 recruiting classes and three springs and summers to develop that talent, Stoops is confident the tide is turning. "Significantly better right now," he says. "I think it's hard to put into words exactly. I definitely feel like we're developing them to be a winning football team."



BOOM WILLIAMS

"They have some nice-looking skill guys, but you still have to get it done up front in this league to win big."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	Garrett Johnson (So.)	2	Dorian Baker (So.)	
WR	1	**Ryan Timmons (Jr.)**	13	Jeff Badet (So.)	
WR	6	Blake Bone (So.)	10	Thaddeus Snodgrass (Fr.)	
LT	70	**Jordan Swindle (Sr.)**	79	Josh Krok (Fr.)	
LG	75	**Zach West (Sr.)**	68	Nick Haynes (So.)	
C	72	**Jon Toth (Jr.)**	57	Zach Myers (Jr.)	
RG	69	**Ramsey Meyers (So.)**	74	Cole Mosier (So.)	
RT	73	Kyle Meadows (So.)	64	George Asafo-Adjei (Fr.)	
TE	15	C.J. Conrad (Fr.)	86	Darryl Long (Fr.)	
QB	14	**Patrick Towles (Jr.)**	7	Drew Barker (Fr.)	
RB	18	Boom Williams (So.)	3	Jojo Kemp (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	91	Farrington Huguenin (Sr.)	96	Regie Meant (So.)	
NT	90	**Melvin Lewis (Sr.)**	69	Matt Elam (So.)	
DE	67	Cory Johnson (Sr.)	99	Adrian Middleton (Fr.)	
OLB	6	Jason Hatcher (Jr.)	20	Kengera Daniel (Fr.)	
ILB	45	**Josh Forrest (Sr.)**	8	Kobie Walker (Fr.)	
ILB	33	Ryan Flannigan (Sr.)	22	**Khalid Henderson (Sr.)**	
OLB	35	Denzil Ware (Fr.)		Alvonte Bell (Jr.)	
CB	16	**Cody Quinn (Sr.)**	29	Kendall Randolph (So.)	
CB	3	**Fred Tiller (Sr.)**	11	J.D. Harmon (Jr.)	
SS	24	Blake McClain (Jr.)	15	Marcus McWilson (Jr.)	
FS	1	**A.J. Stamps (Sr.)**	25	Darius West (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Austin MacGinnis (So.)	KR	18	Stanley Williams (So.)
P	9	Landon Foster (Sr.)	PR	9	Garrett Johnson (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Patrick Towles, 393-225-2,718-9, 14 TDs
Rushing: Stanley Williams, 74 att., 486 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Ryan Timmons, 45 rec., 536 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Josh Forrest, 110
Sacks: Cory Johnson, 2.5
Interceptions: A.J. Stamps, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

MISSOURI TIGERS

National Forecast: 27
SEC East Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Gary Pinkel
Record at School: 113-66 (14 years)
Career Record: 186-104-3 (24 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Josh Henson
Defensive Coordinator: Barry Odom
Columbia, MO • Memorial Stadium (71,168)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 SE Missouri State
12 at Arkansas State
19 Connecticut
26 at Kentucky

OCTOBER
3 South Carolina
10 Florida
17 at Georgia
24 at Vanderbilt

NOVEMBER
5 Mississippi State
14 vs. BYU #
21 Tennessee
28 at Arkansas

#Kansas City, MO

2014 RESULTS (11-3, 7-1)

Aug.	30	South Dakota State	W	38-18
Sept.	6	at Toledo	W	49-24
Sept.	13	UCF	W	38-10
Sept.	20	Indiana	L	27-31
Sept.	27	at South Carolina	W	21-20
Oct.	11	Georgia	L	0-34
Oct.	18	at Florida	W	42-13
Oct.	25	Vanderbilt	W	24-14
Nov.	1	Kentucky	W	20-10
Nov.	15	at Texas A&M	W	34-27
Nov.	22	at Tennessee	W	29-21
Nov.	28	Arkansas	W	21-14
Dec.	6	vs. Alabama %	L	13-42
Jan.	1	vs. Minnesota #	W	33-17

%Atlanta #Citrus Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Terry Beckner Jr., DT, East St. Louis, IL
2. Drew Lock, QB, Lee's Summit, MO
3. Chase Abbington, RB, St. Louis, MO*
4. Marquise Doherty, ATH, Kansas City, MO
5. A.J. Harris, OL, Stilwell, KS
6. Tyler Howell, OL, Olathe, KS*
7. Terez Hall, LB, Lithonia, GA
8. Johnathon Johnson, WR, Memphis, TN
9. Marcell Frazier, DE, Portland, OR*
10. Nate Howard, DE, St. Louis, MO

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

10

Missouri players fumbled just 10 times in 2014, fourth in FBS. Meanwhile, only Oregon (22) forced more fumbles (21).

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	27.8 ppg	12	70
Rushing	177.9 ypg	8	53
Passing	189.1 ypg	10	99
Total	367.0 ypg	13	95
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	21.1 ppg	6	19
Rushing	133.7 ypg	4	27
Passing	212.7 ypg	6	39
Total	346.4 ypg	7	23
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+9	+0.64	3	20

OFFENSE Maty Mauk is nothing if not resilient: Mizzou's junior quarterback played his best ball late in games and late in the season. The Missouri offense didn't dominate, but it did enough to get out of the defense's way late in the year. Mauk will be asked to raise his game significantly in 2015, however, as his receiving corps is about as green as green can be.

Losing all three starters for the second consecutive season will take a toll on anybody's receiver depth, and it has left Mizzou with a black hole on an otherwise seasoned two-deep. Returning wideouts have combined for just 10 career catches, five from the "leading" returnee, sophomore Nate Brown. The lack of experience at wideout could mean Mizzou leans more heavily on the tight end position that returns starter Sean Culkin and athletic backups Jason Reese and Kendall Blanton.

If the passing game can avoid becoming a complete liability, the run game could thrive. Senior Russell Hansbrough rushed for 1,084 yards and 10 touchdowns last season; his return will make the loss of all-purpose star Marcus Murphy a bit more palatable.

Meanwhile, an offensive line that struggled early in 2014 jelled and became a strength as the season progressed. Potential All-SEC center Evan Boehm and three-year starter Connor McGovern return, as do three other seniors with starting experience.

DEFENSE When defensive coordinator Dave Steckel left to take the head coaching position at Missouri State, Gary Pinkel didn't have to look far for a replacement. He simply called up former Mizzou assistant Barry Odom, who had spent the last three seasons engineering a dramatic turnaround as Memphis' defensive coordinator. And for the time being, at least, Pinkel was also able to retain highly regarded defensive line coach Craig Kuligowski.

Kuligowski's ends will be awfully young, led by sophomores Charles Harris and Marcus Loud. But the tackle position could be as strong and deep as it has ever been. Harold Brantley is an exciting weapon on the interior, man-mountain Josh Augusta should be ready for a larger role, and blue-chip freshman Terry Beckner Jr. is expected to quickly carve out a niche in the rotation the moment fall camp begins.

The line is greener than it has been for a while, but this might be the most battle-tested, experienced linebacking corps Pinkel has had at Missouri. Kentrell Brothers and Michael Scherer were steadying forces last fall, taking advantage of the attention blockers had to pay to linemen and combining for 113 solo tackles and 123 assists. Likely strong-side starter Donavin Newsom could become a key attacker in Odom's aggressive defense.

The return of three experienced cornerbacks and senior safety Ian Simon might give Odom reason to get aggressive in the back of the defense. Kenya Dennis, Aarion Penton and John Gibson give Mizzou an experienced, confident trio of corners, but stalwart strong safety Braylon Webb's graduation opens up opportunity for peril.

SPECIALISTS Longtime placekicker and kickoffs specialist Andrew Baggett might take on more duty in 2015. He finished the spring listed as Mizzou's starting punter, though incoming freshman Corey Fatony will be given an opportunity to unseat him in fall camp. Meanwhile, the Tigers will be looking for two new return men to replace Murphy.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Tigers boast solid experience at a majority of units on offense and defense, but they are young at defensive end and ultra-young at receiver, where they must replace all three starters for the second straight year. That seems like a lot to overcome in the battle for a third straight SEC East crown, but suddenly you don't make much money betting against Pinkel.


MATY MAUK

"They've never been a team that's going to wow you with who's on their depth chart, but they play hard. ... They just win."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	2	Nate Brown (So.)	16	Thomas Richard (Fr.)	
WR	18	Wesley Leftwich (Sr.)	17	DeSean Blair (Fr.)	
WR	6	J'Mon Moore (So.)	41	Eric Laurent (Jr.)	
LT	**62**	**Taylor Chappell (Sr.)**		Tyler Howell (Jr.)	
LG	73	Mitch Hall (Sr.)	**63**	**Brad McNulty (Sr.)**	
C	**77**	**Evan Boehm (Sr.)**	78	Andy Bauer (Fr.)	
RG	**60**	**Conner McGovern (Sr.)**	76	Jordan Williams (Jr.)	
RT	72	Clay Rhodes (So.)	55	Nate Crawford (So.)	
TE	**80**	**Sean Culkin (Jr.)**	10	Jason Reese (So.)	
QB	**7**	**Maty Mauk (Jr.)**	9	Eddie Printz (So.)	
RB	32	Russell Hansbrough (Sr.)	29	Ish Witter (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	35	Marcus Loud (So.)	56	Walter Brady (Fr.)	
DT	**90**	**Harold Brantley (Jr.)**		Terry Beckner Jr. (Fr.)	
NG	97	Josh Augusta (Jr.)	95	Rickey Hatley (Jr.)	
DE	91	Charles Harris (So.)		Marcel Frazier (Jr.)	
WLB	**10**	**Kentrell Brothers (Sr.)**	4	Brandon Lee (Fr.)	
MLB	**30**	**Michael Scherer (Jr.)**	38	Eric Beisel (So.)	
SLB	25	Donavin Newsom (Jr.)	40	Clarence Green (Sr.)	
CB	**7**	**Kenya Dennis (Sr.)**	3	David Johnson (Sr.)	
CB	**11**	**Aarion Penton (Jr.)**	1	John Gibson (Jr.)	
SS	22	Anthony Sherrils (So.)	5	Cortland Browning (Sr.)	
FS	**21**	**Ian Simon (Sr.)**	8	Thomas Wilson (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Andrew Baggett (Sr.)	KR	1	John Gibson (Jr.)
P		Corey Fatony (Fr.)	PR	22	Anthony Sherrils (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Maty Mauk, 414-221-2,648-13, 25 TDs
Rushing: Russell Hansbrough, 205 att., 1,084 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Sean Culkin, 20 rec. 174 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Kentrell Brothers, 122
Sacks: Harold Brantley, 5.0
Interceptions: Aarion Penton, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

National Forecast: 37
SEC East Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Steve Spurrier
Record at School: 84-45 (10 years)
Career Record: 226-85-2 (25 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Spurrier
Defensive Co-Coordinators:
Lorenzo Ward, Jon Hoke
Columbia, SC • Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	vs. South Carolina #	
12	North Carolina A&T	
19	Illinois	
26	Delaware	
OCTOBER		
3	at Georgia Tech	
17	Wake Forest	
24	Virginia	
29	at Pittsburgh	
NOVEMBER		
7	Duke	
14	Miami	
21	at Virginia Tech	
28	at NC State	

#Charlotte, NC

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug.	28	Texas A&M	L	28-52
Sept.	6	East Carolina	W	33-23
Sept.	13	Georgia	W	38-35
Sept.	20	at Vanderbilt	W	48-34
Sept.	27	Missouri	L	20-21
Oct.	4	at Kentucky	L	38-45
Oct.	18	Furman	W	41-10
Oct.	25	at Auburn	L	35-42
Nov.	1	Tennessee	(ot) L	42-45
Nov.	15	at Florida	(ot) W	23-20
Nov.	22	South Alabama	W	37-12
Nov.	29	at Clemson	L	17-35
Dec.	27	vs. Miami #	W	24-21

#Independence Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marquavius Lewis, DE, Greenwood, SC*
2. Shameik Blackshear, DE, Bluffton, SC
3. Dexter Wideman, DT, Saluda, SC
4. Jalen Christian, WR, Damascus, MD
5. Zack Bailey, OT, Summerville, SC
6. Christian Pellage, OT, Brooksville, FL
7. Octavis Johnson, DB, Homerville, GA
8. Dante Sawyer, DE, Suwannee, GA*
9. Sherrod Pittman, LB, Jacksonville, FL
10. Lorenzo Nunez, QB, Kennesaw, GA

*junior college transfer

Yards per play allowed by the South Carolina defense against SEC opponents in 2014. The Gamecocks surrendered 5.5 the previous season.

STAT CORNER

6.5

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	32.6 ppg	6	39
Rushing	161.0 ypg	9	65
Passing	282.4 ypg	2	20
Total	443.4 ypg	6	33
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	30.4 ppg	12	89
Rushing	212.2 ypg	13	105
Passing	220.5 ypg	10	52
Total	432.7 ypg	13	92
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-2	-0.15	12	73

OFFENSE First things first: South Carolina must find a quarterback. Dylan Thompson set the school's single-season passing record last year with 3,564 yards. The frontrunner to replace him entering the fall is sophomore Connor Mitch. The former four-star prospect threw for 12,078 yards at Wakefield High School in Raleigh, N.C., with 63 touchdown passes in his senior season.

"Connor Mitch is tremendously improved from when he first got here," Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier says. "He seems to have a little bit more confidence and knows what to do now. I think he's ready to take some giant steps."

Mitch threw six passes last year, completing two of them for 19 yards. He will be trying to hold off junior walk-on Perry Orth, who bags groceries at Publix to help offset his collegiate expenses, and freshman Michael Scarnecchia, a lightly recruited Floridian who redshirted last year.

Senior Brandon Wilds and sophomore David Williams will share carries at running back after Mike Davis' early entry into the NFL Draft. Junior wide receiver Pharoh Cooper didn't get much work in the spring because the Gamecocks already know what he can do. The All-SEC first-teamer will be Spurrier's go-to guy after catching 69 passes for 1,136 yards in 2014.

Up front, the Gamecocks must replace stalwart A.J. Cann, who started 51 games at South Carolina. Senior right tackle Brandon Shell takes up the status of grizzled veteran thanks to his 36 career starts, twice as many as anyone else on the team.

DEFENSE The defense was terrible last year, prompting Spurrier to hire old friend Jon Hoke, who coordinated defense for Spurrier at Florida from 1999-2001 and spent the last 13 years in the NFL as a defensive backs coach.

"Jon fits in everywhere he goes because he's a good person, good guy," Spurrier says. "He's been around a lot of really sharp coaches, and I think he's a sharp coach. But he's got a lot of work to do, he will tell you that."

The Gamecocks were No. 92 in the nation in total defense last year, and Hoke already has made changes. South Carolina will use a base 4-3 rather than last year's juggling between a 4-2-5 and 3-4 look, and several players have swapped positions. Safety T.J. Gurley is now a nickel back. Spur Jordan Diggs is a safety. Spur Larenz Bryant is a linebacker, and Bryson Allen-Williams is back to his natural position at strong-side linebacker. Graduate transfer safety Isaiah Johnson will be plugged in immediately.

None of that shuffling will matter, though, if the Gamecocks don't improve their defensive line. They were No. 118 in the nation in sacks (14.0) and No. 121 tackles for a loss (52.0) last year. South Carolina recruited seven defensive linemen to help fix the problem. The most promising is junior college transfer Marquavius Lewis.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Elliott Fry, a 158-pounder who walked on out of Frisco, Texas, and won the job as a true freshman, is back for his junior season. He's made 33-of-43 field goals for his career. Walk-on transfer Sean Kelly looks like the frontrunner for the punting job.

FINAL ANALYSIS South Carolina opened spring practice with a sense of urgency that may have been lacking last season.

"Sometimes after you go 11–2 three years in a row, some people just assume, 'We're going to keep on winning,' but it didn't quite happen that way," Spurrier says. "We were not a real strong team. We are by a long way not a finished product, but we've got time."

The Gamecocks will be breaking in a new quarterback and rebuilding a defense that lost its morale along with a lot of games last year, so the time had better be well spent.



PHAROH COOPER

"They were definitely the biggest disappointment in the league, but they had some crazy losses."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	1	Deebo Samuel (Fr.)	14	Shaq Davidson (Fr.)	
WR	**11**	**Pharoh Cooper (Jr.)**	83	Carlton Heard (Sr.)	
LT	74	Mason Zandi (Jr.)	76	Mike Matulis (Sr.)	
LG	76	Mike Matulis (Sr.)	65	Brock Stadnik (Jr.)	
C	**70**	**Alan Knott (So.)**	72	Donell Stanley (Fr.)	
RG	**75**	**Will Sport (Sr.)**	51	Cody Waldrop (Jr.)	
RT	**71**	**Brandon Shell (Sr.)**	60	D.J. Park (So.)	
TE	89	Jerell Adams (Sr.)	86	Kevin Crosby (Fr.)	
QB	6	Connor Mitch (So.)	10	Perry Orth (Jr.)	
FB	43	Garrison Gist (Sr.)	45	Clayton Stadnik (Jr.)	
RB	22	Brandon Wilds (Sr.)	33	David Williams (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**44**	**Gerald Dixon (Jr.)**	55	David Johnson (So.)	
DT	**92**	**Gerald Dixon Jr. (Sr.)**	90	Taylor Stallworth (So.)	
DT	48	Dexter Wideman (Fr.)	52	Phillip Dukes (Sr.)	
DE	8	Marquavius Lewis (Jr.)	5	Darius English (Jr.)	
LB	4	Bryson Allen-Williams (Sr.)	23	Larenz Bryant (Jr.)	
LB	**10**	**Skai Moore (Jr.)**	11	T.J. Holloman (Jr.)	
LB	28	Jonathan Walton (Jr.)	13	Jalen Henry (Fr.)	
CB	**3**	**Chris Lammons (So.)**	7	Wesley Green (Fr.)	
CB	1	Rico McWilliams (Jr.)	**20**	**T.J. Gurley (Sr.)**	
S	42	Jordan Diggs (Jr.)	17	Chaz Elder (Jr.)	
S		Isaiah Johnson (Sr.)	**6**	**Chris Moody (Jr.)**	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	29	Elliott Fry (Jr.)	KR	11	Pharoh Cooper (Jr.)
P	13	Sean Kelly (Jr.)	PR	11	Pharoh Cooper (Jr.

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Pharoh Cooper, 8-5-78-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Wilds, 106 att., 570 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Pharoh Cooper, 69 rec., 1,136, 9 TDs
Tackles: Skai Moore, 93
Sacks: Gerald Dixon, 2.0; Jordan Diggs, 2.0
Interceptions: Skai Moore, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Mike Dellfoog

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

National Forecast: 22
SEC East Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Butch Jones
Record at School: 12-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 62-40 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike DeBord
Defensive Coordinator: John Jancek
Knoxville, TN • Neyland Stadium (102,455)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 vs. Bowling Green #
12 Oklahoma
19 Western Carolina
26 at Florida

OCTOBER
3 Arkansas
10 Georgia
24 at Alabama
31 at Kentucky

NOVEMBER
7 South Carolina
14 North Texas
21 at Missouri
28 Vanderbilt

#Nashville, TN

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug.	31	Utah State	W	38-7
Sept.	6	Arkansas State	W	34-19
Sept.	13	at Oklahoma	L	10-34
Sept.	27	at Georgia	L	32-35
Oct.	4	Florida	L	9-10
Oct.	11	Chattanooga	W	45-10
Oct.	18	at Ole Miss	L	3-34
Oct.	25	Alabama	L	20-34
Nov.	1	at South Carolina	(ot) W	45-42
Nov.	15	Kentucky	W	50-16
Nov.	22	Missouri	L	21-29
Nov.	29	at Vanderbilt	W	24-17
Jan.	2	vs. Iowa #	W	45-28

#TaxSlayer Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kahlil McKenzie, DT, Walnut Creek, CA
2. Kyle Phillips, DE, Nashville, TN
3. Alvin Kamara, RB, Norcross, GA*
4. Shy Tuttle, DT, Midway, NC
5. Preston Williams, WR, Hampton, GA
6. Drew Richmond, OT, Memphis, TN
7. Jack Jones, OT, Murfreesboro, TN
8. Darrin Kirkland Jr., LB, Indianapolis, IN
9. Jauan Jennings, QB, Murfreesboro, TN
10. Micah Abernathy, CB, Norcross, GA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

20.5

Tackles for a loss by Derek Barnett in 2014. It was the first time a freshman had 20 since Kent State's Roosevelt Nix in 2010.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	28.9 ppg	10	62
Rushing	146.4 ypg	13	89
Passing	224.2 ypg	8	70
Total	370.5 ypg	11	90
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	24.2 ppg	9	35
Rushing	168.4 ypg	9	65
Passing	196.2 ypg	4	22
Total	364.6 ypg	8	36
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+2	+0.15	9	53

OFFENSE Joshua Dobbs' rise from third on the depth chart to being the impetus of Tennessee's 2014 bowl push and the projected star of the 2015 Vols has been, in a word, meteoric. The aerospace engineering major from suburban Atlanta has even been mentioned as having an outside shot at this season's Heisman Trophy. Keeping Dobbs healthy will be of utmost importance; no other quarterback on the roster has taken a collegiate snap.

There are only three scholarship running backs on the roster, but Tennessee's backfield duo of Jalen Hurd and Alvin Kamara should be as exciting to watch as any. Hurd finished with a team-high 899 yards in 2014 but seems eager to share carries with Kamara, who began his career at Alabama. Kamara will complement the punishing style of Hurd with his maneuverability and speed.

The receiving corps should be a talented group of playmakers that is a coverage nightmare. The return of Marquez North from a shoulder injury that ended his 2014 season will be a huge boost, and anything less than North's best season yet will be a disappointment. The Vols also bring back Pig Howard, who led the team with 618 yards last year, and Von Pearson.

A year of experience will help alleviate serious concerns about the offensive line, which last season gave up more yards due to sacks (305) than all but two FBS teams. One of the only positives about this group in 2014 was Jashon Robertson, who started all 13 games and was named to the SEC's All-Freshman team.

DEFENSE As hard as it is to believe, the defensive line that dominated Iowa in the TaxSlayer Bowl somehow got even better this offseason. Back are Derek Barnett and Curt Maggitt, who combined for 21 sacks last season. No position group enters this season with more potential.

Gone is A.J. Johnson, Tennessee's middle linebacker and team leader. Finding a suitable replacement up the middle will be paramount to the Vols' ability to stop the run this season. On the outside, there are far fewer question marks. Jalen Reeves-Maybin is coming off a breakout season as a sophomore and will likely lead the team in tackles once again.

The Vols' defensive backfield, led by cornerback Cameron Sutton, should be one of the conference's best. The reports on junior college transfer Justin Martin, an athletic corner, sound as if he'll transition nicely into Division I football. Replacing nickel corner Justin Coleman with sophomore Rashaan Gaulden seems like a logical fit. At safety, Brian Randolph packs a punch and was an integral part of the defense last season. Opposite him, LaDarrell McNeil looked rejuvenated in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Aaron Medley was automatic on field goals from within 40 yards last season. He has spent the offseason trying to develop long-kick accuracy, which will also help him on kickoff duty. Replacing punter Matt Darr and his penchant for pinning teams deep won't be easy, but the incoming transfer of three-year Maryland starter Nathan Renfro, a Nashville-area native, will help. So will the addition of Tommy Townsend, a high school All-American. Sutton will likely handle punts with Evan Berry returning kicks for the second straight year.

FINAL ANALYSIS Tennessee's dismantling of Iowa in last year's TaxSlayer Bowl guaranteed that excitement in Knoxville would reach a fever pitch by this season's opener. With the suddenly high expectations for the Vols comes pressure for Butch Jones for the first time in his Tennessee career. There's talent at the skill positions, but enough to win the SEC East? Jones probably has another year before fans grow restless, but if the Vols don't win the division, they'll need to at least come very close.



JALEN HURD

"Jalen Hurd, that dude is going to be a stud. They have a ton of skill coming back. Their wide receivers are big time."
– An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	8	**Marquez North (Jr.)**	18	Jason Croom (Jr.)
WR	9	**Von Pearson (Sr.)**	3	Josh Malone (So.)
WR	2	**Pig Howard (Sr.)**	25	Josh Smith (So.)
LT	77	**Kyler Kerbyson (Sr.)**		Drew Richmond (Fr.)
LG	75	**Marcus Jackson (Sr.)**	60	Austin Sanders (So.)
C	57	**Mack Crowder (Sr.)**	71	Dylan Wiesman (Jr.)
RG	73	**Jashon Robertson (So.)**	66	Jack Jones (Fr.)
RT	55	Coleman Thomas (So.)	77	Kyler Kerbyson (Sr.)
TE	82	**Ethan Wolf (So.)**	48	Alex Ellis (Sr.)
QB	11	Joshua Dobbs (Jr.)	12	Quinten Dormady (Fr.)
RB	1	**Jalen Hurd (So.)**	6	Alvin Kamara (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	9	**Derek Barnett (So.)**	5	Kyle Phillips (Fr.)
DT		Kahlil McKenzie (Fr.)	95	**Danny O'Brien (Jr.)**
DT	58	Owen Williams (Sr.)	96	Trevarris Saulsberry (Sr.)
DE	56	**Curt Maggitt (Sr.)**	50	**Corey Vereen (Jr.)**
LB	21	**Jalen Reeves-Maybin (Jr.)**	20	Cortez McDowell (So.)
LB	51	Kenny Bynum (Jr.)	44	Jakob Johnson (So.)
LB	17	Dillon Bates (Fr.)	42	Chris Weatherd (Sr.)
CB	23	**Cameron Sutton (Jr.)**	22	Malik Foreman (Jr.)
CB	12	Emmanuel Moseley (So.)		Justin Martin (So.)
S	37	**Brian Randolph (Sr.)**	29	Evan Berry (So.)
S	33	**LaDarrell McNeil (Sr.)**	6	Todd Kelly Jr. (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	25	Aaron Medley (So.)	KR	29	Evan Berry (So.)
P		Nathan Renfro (Sr.)	PR	23	Cameron Sutton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joshua Dobbs, 177-112-1,206-6, 9 TDs
Rushing: Jalen Hurd, 190 att., 899 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Pig Howard, 54 rec., 618 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Jalen Reeves-Maybin, 101
Sacks: Curt Maggitt, 11.0
Interceptions: Todd Kelly Jr., 3; Cameron Sutton, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

VANDERBILT COMMODORES

National Forecast: 79
SEC East Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Derek Mason
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Andy Ludwig
Defensive Coordinator: Derek Mason
Nashville, TN • Vanderbilt Stadium (40,5350)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Western Kentucky
12 Georgia
19 Austin Peay
26 at Ole Miss

OCTOBER
3 at Middle Tennessee
17 at South Carolina
24 Missouri
31 at Houston

NOVEMBER
7 at Florida
14 Kentucky
21 Texas A&M
28 at Tennessee

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 0-8)

Aug.	28	Temple	L	7-37
Sept.	6	Ole Miss (LP Field)	L	3-41
Sept.	13	Massachusetts	W	41-38
Sept.	20	South Carolina	L	34-48
Sept.	27	at Kentucky	L	7-17
Oct.	4	at Georgia	L	17-44
Oct.	11	Charleston Southern	W	21-20
Oct.	25	at Missouri	L	14-24
Nov.	1	Old Dominion	W	42-28
Nov.	8	Florida	L	10-34
Nov.	22	at Mississippi State	L	0-51
Nov.	29	Tennessee	L	17-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Josh Smith, LB, Murfreesboro, TN
2. Donovan Sheffield, CB, Nashville, TN
3. Kyle Shurmur, QB, Philadelphia, PA
4. Caleb Peart, DE, Gilbert, AZ
5. Nehemiah Mitchell, OLB, Hayward, CA*
6. Dare Odeyingbo, LB, Irving, TX
7. Jordan Griffin, LB, Tampa, FL
8. Sam Dobbs, TE, Fairburn, GA
9. Justin Skule, OT, Clifton, VA
10. Josh Crawford, RB, Wetumpka, AL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

-23

The change in Vanderbilt's turnover margin from 2013 (+7) to 2014 (-16). The Commodores saw regression in both quality and luck.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	17.2 ppg	14	116
Rushing	109.3 ypg	14	113
Passing	179.1 ypg	13	105
Total	288.3 ypg	14	122
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	33.3 ppg	14	104
Rushing	183.8 ypg	11	86
Passing	218.3 ypg	9	49
Total	402.1 ypg	10	68
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-16	-1.33	14	121

OFFENSE Vanderbilt's offensive issues were well chronicled throughout the 2014 season. The Commodores ranked last in the SEC in both total offense and scoring offense by a wide margin and ranked in the bottom 10 in the nation in both categories as well. Perhaps the most troubling stat? The fact that Vanderbilt scored only nine offensive touchdowns in its eight SEC games.

Coach Derek Mason addressed the offensive issues shortly after the season by firing Karl Dorrell and hiring Andy Ludwig to run the Commodores' attack. Ludwig's first order of business is to identify a quarterback between holdovers Johnny McCrary and Wade Freebeck. Both started multiple games last year; neither played well enough to stake a claim as the no-doubt-about-it starter entering 2015.

The Commodores are thin at tailback but are in good shape at the top of the depth chart. Ralph Webb, who rushed for 912 yards as a redshirt freshman, impressed Ludwig during the spring. C.J. Duncan, a former high school quarterback, headlines a talented young corps of wide receivers. Keep an eye on sophomore Trent Sherfield and redshirt freshman Ronald Monroe. Tight end Steven Scheu, the team's top pass-catcher in 2014, suffered a broken leg in the spring. His return for Week 1 is in doubt.

A veteran offensive line was expected to be a team strength in 2014. That, however, was not the case. There were other issues, of course, but the Commodores averaged a league-worst 3.4 yards per carry and struggled to protect the quarterbacks. Mason is confident that this group, which returns four starters, can rebound.

DEFENSE About a month after he fired defensive coordinator David Kotulski, Mason named himself as the Commodores' new defensive coordinator. "I am loving it," he said during the spring. "I don't know why I ever gave it up. Probably best decision I have made is to come back and run the defense."

The defensive line is home to three of the most talented players on the roster — ends/tackles Adam Butler and Caleb Azubike and nose guard Nifae Lealao — but this unit is still a work in progress.

Stephen Weatherly proved to be an ideal fit as pass-rushing outside linebacker in the new scheme, leading the team in both tackles for a loss (12.5) and sacks (4.5). Inside linebacker Nigel Bowden was as good as advertised as a redshirt freshman, leading the team with 78 tackles despite battling various injuries. Josh Smith, the prize of the 2015 recruiting class, is considered a natural inside linebacker but might have an easier time finding early playing time on the outside.

The Commodores struggled in pass defense — allowing a league-high 7.6 yards per attempt and intercepting only six passes — due in part to inconsistent play from the cornerback position. Junior Torren McGaster is entrenched as one of the starters, but the other spot is wide open.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Tommy Openshaw was solid in his first season, hitting 8-of-11, including all six from under 40 yards. Colby Cooke averaged 42.4 yards per punt, but the Commodores ranked last in the SEC and 86th nationally in net punting with a 36.2-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's difficult to put a positive spin on Mason's first year as a head coach. Coming off back-to-back nine-win seasons, Vanderbilt slumped to 3–9 overall and failed to win a game in the SEC. Mason's second Vanderbilt team should be improved, thanks in part to more experience on both sides of the ball and upgrades on the coaching staff. But the Commodores will have to be drastically better, especially on offense, to make a move in the SEC East, where seemingly every program — with the possible exception of South Carolina — is on the uptick.


RALPH WEBB

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

"(Ralph) Webb played pretty well for them as a freshman, but that was about the only bright spot offensively."

- An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	19	**C.J. Duncan (So.)**	10	Trent Sherfield (So.)	
WR	86	**Latevius Rayford (Jr.)**	82	Kris Kentera (Sr.)	
WR	9	Caleb Scott (So.)	8	Ronald Monroe (Fr.)	
LT	50	**Andrew Jelks (Jr.)**	75	Bailey Granier (Fr.)	
LG	53	**Jake Bernstein (Sr.)**	56	Barrett Gouger (So.)	
C	77	**Spencer Pulley (Jr.)**		Cole Hardin (Fr.)	
RG	64	Delando Crooks (So.)	61	Bruno Reagan (Fr.)	
RT	74	**Will Holden (Jr.)**	66	Blake Fromang (Jr.)	
TE	81	**Steven Scheu (Sr.)**	83	Nathan Marcus (So.)	
QB	12	Wade Freebeck (So.)	2	Johnny McCrary (So.)	
RB	26	**Ralph Webb (So.)**	28	Dallas Rivers (So.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DT	69	**Adam Butler (Jr.)**		Torey Agee (Jr.)	
NG	74	Jay Woods (So.)	77	Nifae Lealao (So.)	
DE	55	**Caleb Azubike (Sr.)**	49	Jonathan Wynn (So.)	
OLB	45	**Stephen Weatherly (Jr.)**		Josh Smith (Fr.)	
ILB	35	**Darreon Herring (Sr.)**	41	Zach Cunningham (So.)	
ILB	52	**Nigel Bowden (So.)**	40	Ja'karri Thomas (Jr.)	
OLB	44	Nehemiah Mitchell (Jr.)	99	Landon Stokes (So.)	
CB	5	**Torren McGaster (Jr.)**	31	Tre Herndon (So.)	
CB	3	**Taurean Ferguson (So.)**	4	Tre Bell (So.)	
S	20	Oren Burks (So.)	2	Tre Tarpley (So.)	
S	32	**Andrew Williamson (Sr.)**	27	**Jahmel McIntosh (Sr.)**	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Tommy Openshaw (So.)	KR	6	Darrius Sims (Jr.)
P	16	Colby Cooke (Jr.)	PR	36	Trey Ellis (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Passing: Johnny McCrary, 152-78-985-8, 9 TDs
Rushing: Ralph Webb, 212 att., 912 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Steven Scheu, 39 rec., 525 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Nigel Bowden, 78
Sacks: Stephen Weatherly, 4.5
Interceptions: Torren McGaster, 2; Taurean Ferguson, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

National Forecast: 2
SEC West Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Nick Saban
Record at School: 91-17 (8 years)
Career Record: 182-59-1 (19 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lane Kiffin
Defensive Coordinator: Kirby Smart
Tuscaloosa, AL
Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	vs. Wisconsin #	
12	Middle Tennessee	
19	Ole Miss	
26	UL Monroe	
OCTOBER		
3	at Georgia	
10	Arkansas	
17	at Texas A&M	
24	Tennessee	
NOVEMBER		
7	LSU	
14	at Mississippi State	
21	Charleston Southern	
28	at Auburn	

#Arlington, TX

2014 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Aug.	30	vs. West Virginia %		W	33-23
Sept.	6	Florida Atlantic		W	41-0
Sept.	13	Southern Miss		W	52-12
Sept.	20	Florida		W	42-21
Oct.	4	at Ole Miss		L	17-23
Oct.	11	at Arkansas		W	14-13
Oct.	18	Texas A&M		W	59-0
Oct.	25	at Tennessee		W	34-20
Nov.	8	at LSU	(ot)	W	20-13
Nov.	15	Mississippi State		W	25-20
Nov.	22	Western Carolina		W	48-14
Nov.	29	Auburn		W	55-44
Dec.	6	vs. Missouri %		W	42-13
Jan.	1	vs. Ohio State #		L	35-42

%Atlanta #Sugar Bowl: CFB Playoff Semifinal

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Calvin Ridley, WR, Coconut Creek, FL
2. Kendall Sheffield, CB, Missouri City, TX
3. Blake Barnett, QB, Corona, CA
4. Daron Payne, DL, Birmingham, AL
5. Minkah Fitzpatrick, CB, Old Bridge, NJ
6. Damien Harris, RB, Berea, KY
7. Deionte Thompson, S, Orange, TX
8. Lester Cotton, OL, Tuscaloosa, AL
9. Richie Petitbon, OL, Annapolis, MD
10. Daylon Charlot, WR, Patterson, LA

STAT CORNER

1.47

Alabama scored 4.96 points per trip inside the 40 and allowed opponents just 3.49. The +1.47 margin was the best in FBS.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	36.9 ppg	2	15
Rushing	206.6 ypg	6	35
Passing	277.9 ypg	4	28
Total	484.5 ypg	3	17
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	18.4 ppg	3	6
Rushing	102.4 ypg	1	4
Passing	226.0 ypg	11	58
Total	328.4 ypg	3	12
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-2	-0.14	11	71

OFFENSE It's been a long time since Alabama's been forced to replace so much of its offense. The single-season passing record holder (Blake Sims), the top three receivers (Amari Cooper, DeAndrew White and Christion Jones) and the school's No. 4 all-time leading rusher (T.J. Yeldon) are gone. Oh, and three of the five starting linemen depart as well. So Lane Kiffin has a steep challenge in his second season as the Tide's offensive coordinator.

The good news for Alabama? Its been stockpiling No. 1 recruiting classes, so there are plenty of talented players ready to take on leading roles. The biggest question, however, remains with the most important position: Who will be the starting quarterback? Continuity was lacking in spring as five scholarship QBs competed without a sure No. 1 emerging. Jake Coker will head into fall camp the leading candidate, but redshirt freshman David Cornwell emerged late in the spring as a viable option.

Former high school All-Americans Chris Black and Robert Foster appear primed to emerge as the top options in the passing game, and incoming freshman Calvin Ridley has a chance to be the next great playmaker at receiver.

The biggest threat, again, resides in the backfield. Derrick Henry, at 6'3", 242 pounds, will be the feature back after two seasons sharing the role. The long-strider has an almost surprising second gear considering his size. Kenyan Drake returns from his horrifying broken leg suffered Oct. 4 at Ole Miss. The burst was back in the spring for the fastest member of Alabama's backfield whose versatility will be utilized in the passing game again this fall.

DEFENSE With inexperience on offense, the burden will be on Kirby Smart's defense. The strength will be the front seven. Alabama's line is as deep and as talented as it's been in years with starters A'Shawn Robinson, Jarran Reed and Jonathan Allen back. They're big but mobile enough to face the fast-paced, spread offenses that have become common in the SEC.

Inside linebacker Reggie Ragland turned down the NFL to play his final season in Tuscaloosa. His 95 tackles were second behind only Landon Collins last year. Former top recruit Reuben Foster is a big hitter and could join him in the middle of the defense this fall after proving his value on special teams.

The secondary was an issue late last season and will be without Collins and Nick Perry, the starting safeties. Competition at the position will continue through August with Geno Smith, Hootie Jones, Ronnie Harrison and Maurice Smith in the hunt. There's experience at corner. Cyrus Jones, Eddie Jackson, Bradley Sylve and Tony Brown each have starting experience, but this group needs to play better in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Punter JK Scott broke out as one of the nation's elite as a true freshman. His 48.0-yard average included 23 of 55 tries traveling more than 50 yards. His ability to impact field position could be crucial with an inexperienced offense. Kicker Adam Griffith's consistency suffered when back problems surfaced in October. After making his first seven kicks last fall, Griffith made just 5-of-12 to close the season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Alabama hasn't lost a season-opener since 2001, but a date with Wisconsin in Arlington, Texas, will be a stout test with an uncertain offense. Establishing a No. 1 quarterback early in August will be crucial for developing chemistry with inexperienced receivers. On defense, the front seven should help Alabama retain its reputation among the nation's most imposing units. But it'll have to plug the leaks in the secondary that created major issues against Auburn and in the Sugar Bowl loss to Ohio State.



DERRICK HENRY

"Teams hurt them on the back end of their defense last year, but they have guys returning who are great athletes."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (2)

WR	8	Robert Foster (So.)	13	ArDarius Stewart (So.)	
WR	1	Chris Black (Jr.)		Calvin Ridley (Fr.)	
LT	74	**Cam Robinson (So.)**	85	Korren Kirven (Jr.)	
LG	75	Bradley Bozeman (So.)	68	Isaac Luatua (Sr.)	
C	70	**Ryan Kelly (Sr.)**	63	J.C. Hassenauer (So.)	
RG	71	Ross Pierschbacher (Fr.)	50	Alphonse Taylor (Jr.)	
RT	76	Dominick Jackson (Sr.)	89	Brandon Greene (Jr.)	
TE	88	O.J. Howard (Jr.)	83	Ty Flournoy-Smith (Sr.)	
TE	94	Dakota Ball (Jr.))	36	Johny Dwight (Fr.)	
QB	14	Jake Coker (Sr.)	12	David Cornwell (Fr.)	
RB	2	Derrick Henry (Jr.)	17	Kenyan Drake (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	90	**Jarran Reed (Sr.)**	54	Dalvin Tomlinson (Jr.)	
NG	86	**A'Shawn Robinson (Jr.)**	69	Joshua Frazier (So.)	
DE	93	**Jonathan Allen (Jr.)**	57	D.J. Pettway (Sr.)	
OLB	22	Ryan Anderson (Jr.)	25	Dillon Lee (Sr.)	
ILB	19	**Reggie Ragland (Sr.)**	42	Keith Holcombe (Fr.)	
ILB	10	Reuben Foster (Jr.)	20	Shaun Dion Hamilton (So.)	
OLB	30	**Denzel Devall (Sr.)**	32	Rashaan Evans (So.)	
CB	5	**Cyrus Jones (Sr.)**	26	Marlon Humphrey (Fr.)	
CB	2	Tony Brown (So.)	3	Bradley Sylve (Sr.)	
S	24	Geno Smith (Sr.)	6	Hootie Jones (So.)	
S	4	**Eddie Jackson (Jr.)**	15	Ronnie Harrison (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Adam Griffith (Jr.)	KR	5	Cyrus Jones (Sr.)
P	15	JK Scott (So.)	PR	5	Cyrus Jones (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jacob Coker, 59-38-403-0, 4 TDs
Rushing: Derrick Henry, 172 att., 990yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: O.J. Howard, 17 rec., 260 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Reggie Ragland, 95
Sacks: Jonathan Allen, 5.5
Interceptions: Cyrus Jones. 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

National Forecast: 16
SEC West Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Bret Bielema
Record at School: 10-15 (2 years)
Career Record: 78-39 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dan Enos
Defensive Coordinator: Robb Smith
Fayetteville, AR • Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	UTEP
12	vs. Toledo #
19	Texas Tech
26	vs. Texas A&M %
OCTOBER	
3	at Tennessee
10	at Alabama
24	Auburn
31	Tennessee-Martin
NOVEMBER	
7	at Ole Miss
14	at LSU
21	Mississippi State
28	Missouri

#Little Rock, AR %Arlington, TX

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 2-6)

Aug.	30	at Auburn	L	21-45
Sept.	6	Nicholls	W	73-7
Sept.	13	at Texas Tech	W	49-28
Sept.	20	Northern Illinois	W	52-14
Sept.	27	vs. Texas A&M % (ot)	L	28-35
Oct.	11	Alabama	L	13-14
Oct.	18	vs. Georgia $	L	32-45
Oct.	25	UAB	W	45-17
Nov.	1	at Mississippi State	L	10-17
Nov.	15	LSU	W	17-0
Nov.	22	Ole Miss	W	30-0
Nov.	28	at Missouri	L	14-21
Dec.	29	vs. Texas #	W	31-7

%Arlington $Little Rock #Texas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Hjalte Froholdt, DL, Svendborg, Denmark
2. CJ O'Grady, TE, Fayetteville, AR
3. Will Gragg, TE, Dumas, AR
4. Jamario Bell, DE, Junction City, AR
5. Ty Storey, QB, Charleston, AR
6. Jalen Merrick, OL, Oak Hill, FL
7. Jeremiah Ledbetter, DL, Orlando, FL*
8. Zach Rogers, OL, Carrollton, TX
9. Rawleigh Williams III, RB, Dallas, TX
10. Austin Cantrell, TE, Roland, OK

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

319.2

Average weight of the 10 offensive linemen listed on Arkansas' spring depth chart — with a 250-pound fullback and 225-pound tailbacks.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.9 ppg	7	42
Rushing	218.0 ypg	5	24
Passing	188.0 ypg	11	100
Total	406.0 ypg	8	60
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	19.2 ppg	4	10
Rushing	114.6 ypg	2	12
Passing	208.8 ypg	5	37
Total	323.4 ypg	2	10
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+7	+0.54	4	27

OFFENSE Brandon Allen is in line to become Arkansas' first three-year starting quarterback since Matt Jones (2002-04), but he's working on his fourth offensive coordinator in five years with the arrival of Dan Enos. If Allen marginally improves on his 2014 passing numbers — 2,285 yards, 20 touchdowns, five interceptions — the Razorbacks could make a huge leap.

Arkansas sports the FBS' only tandem 1,000-yard rushers from last season in Jonathan Williams (1,190 yards) and Alex Collins (1,100), who each rushed for 12 touchdowns. The duo should be just as dynamic this fall running behind a line that returns four starters. The front wall has undergone a shake-up, with former guard Denver Kirkland now at left tackle and Dan Skipper swapping sides to right tackle. Left guard Sebastian Tretola, who gained national publicity for his touchdown pass on a fake field goal last year, returns in better physical condition next to center Mitch Smothers. Frank Ragnow is the top candidate to take over at right guard, and the Razorbacks should have quality depth.

Keon Hatcher returned to lead the receiving corps, which is in need of game-breaking talent. Signee Dominique Reed and redshirt freshman Jojo Robinson should provide a spark to a unit that also brings back Jared Cornelius, Cody Hollister, Drew Morgan and converted quarterback Damon Mitchell.

Hunter Henry again leads the tight end corps, which also features Jeremy Sprinkle and signee Will Gragg, the brother of ex-Hog Chris Gragg of the Buffalo Bills.

DEFENSE Arkansas shook off about a decade of sluggish play from its defense to rank 10th nationally in yards allowed per game, an improvement of 66 spots. Second-year coordinator Robb Smith re-upped with a handsome raise and is confident the Razorbacks can plug rising stars into the system and remain productive despite the loss of key players such as Trey Flowers, Darius Philon, Martrell Spaight and Alan Turner.

Up front, breakout star Taiwan Johnson has moved from nose guard to defensive tackle to create room for Bijhon Jackson and DeMarcus Hodge. Ends Deatrich Wise Jr. and JaMichael Winston are prepared for larger roles and the leadership mantle. Junior college transfer Jeremiah Ledbetter should have an impact.

Brooks Ellis slides from middle linebacker to the weak-side spot from which Spaight racked up an SEC-best 128 tackles. Junior Josh Williams and sophomores Khalia Hackett and Randy Ramsey should have increased playing time at linebacker.

Corners Jared Collins, D.J. Dean and Henre' Toliver have proven to be solid SEC cover men. Rohan Gaines brings veteran experience at strong safety, and sophomore Josh Liddell could be the kind of heavy-hitting free safety the Razorbacks have lacked for years.

SPECIALISTS Toby Baker and signee Blake Johnson are vying to replace punter Sam Irwin-Hill. Adam McFain has the experience edge over Lane Saling and Cole Hedlund for placekicking duties. Cornelius is the punt returner after showing promise as a freshman, and Hatcher has experience on kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Arkansas should be more dynamic and more efficient with Allen back for his third season as the starter operating in front of a top-flight offensive line. The defense, despite some key losses in the front seven, should once again be strong. To emerge as a legitimate contender in the rough-and-tumble SEC West, the Hogs must find a way to win on the road in league play (something they haven't done since October 2012) and learn how to win close games (they haven't won an SEC game decided by a touchdown or less since October 2011).



ALEX COLLINS

"The thing that comes to mind with them is just how big they are. They're freaking huge, and they're physical."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	4	**Keon Hatcher (Sr.)**	80	Drew Morgan (Jr.)	
WR	1	Jared Cornelius (So.)	81	**Cody Hollister (Jr.)**	
LT	55	**Denver Kirkland (Jr.)**	79	Jalen Merrick (Fr.)	
LG	73	**Sebastian Tretola (Sr.)**	50	Josh Allen (Fr.)	
C	65	**Mitch Smothers (Sr.)**	75	Zach Rogers (Fr.)	
RG	72	Frank Ragnow (So.)	59	Marcus Danenhauer (Sr.)	
RT	70	**Dan Skipper (Jr.)**	60	Brian Wallace (Fr.)	
TE	84	**Hunter Henry (Jr.)**	83	Jeremy Sprinkle (Jr.)	
QB	10	**Brandon Allen (Sr.)**	8	Austin Allen (So.)	
FB	24	Kody Walker (Sr.)	45	Tyler Colquitt (Fr.)	
TB	32	**Jonathan Williams (Sr.)**	3	Alex Collins (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	6	**JaMichael Winston (Jr.)**	55	Jeremiah Ledbetter (Jr.)	
DT	78	Bijhon Jackson (So.)	93	DeMarcus Hodge (Sr.)	
DT	94	**Taiwan Johnson (Jr.)**	49	Armon Watts (Fr.)	
DE	48	Deatrich Wise Jr. (Jr.)	97	Tevin Beanum (So.)	
SLB	21	Josh Williams (Jr.)	11	Randy Ramsey (So.)	
MLB	27	Khalia Hackett (So.)	41	Josh Harris (Fr.)	
WLB	51	**Brooks Ellis (Jr.)**	35	Dwayne Eugene (So.)	
CB	29	**Jared Collins (Jr.)**	5	Henre' Toliver (So.)	
CB	2	**D.J. Dean (Jr.)**	16	Cornelius Floyd (So.)	
SS	26	Rohan Gaines (Sr.)	20	De'Andre Coley (So.)	
FS	28	Josh Liddell (So.)	9	Santos Ramirez (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Adam McFain (Jr.)	KR	4	Keon Hatcher (Sr.)
P	37	Toby Baker (Jr.)	PR	1	Jared Cornelius (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Allen, 339-190-2,285-5, 20 TDs
Rushing: Jonathan Williams, 211 att., 1,190 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Keon Hatcher, 43 rec., 558 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Brook Ellis, 72
Sacks: Taiwan Johnson, 4.5; Darius Philon, 4.5
Interceptions: Three players tied with 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Layne Murdoch Jr.

AUBURN TIGERS

National Forecast: 4
SEC West Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Gus Malzahn
Record at School: 20-7 (2 years)
Career Record: 29-10 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rhett Lashlee
Defensive Coordinator: Will Muschamp
Auburn, AL• Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 vs. Louisville #
12 Jacksonville State
19 at LSU
26 Mississippi State

OCTOBER
3 San Jose State
15 at Kentucky
24 at Arkansas
31 Ole Miss

NOVEMBER
7 at Texas A&M
14 Georgia
21 Idaho
28 Alabama

#Atlanta, GA

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 4-4)

Aug.	30	Arkansas	W	45-21
Sept.	6	San Jose State	W	59-13
Sept.	18	at Kansas State	W	20-14
Sept.	27	Louisiana Tech	W	45-17
Oct.	4	LSU	W	41-7
Oct.	11	at Mississippi State	L	23-38
Oct.	25	South Carolina	W	42-35
Nov.	1	at Ole Miss	W	35-31
Nov.	8	Texas A&M	L	38-41
Nov.	15	at Georgia	L	7-34
Nov.	22	Samford	W	31-7
Nov.	29	at Alabama	L	44-55
Jan.	1	vs. Wisconsin #	(ot) L	31-34

#Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Byron Cowart, DE, Seffner, FL
2. Kerryon Johnson, RB, Madison, AL
3. Jovon Robinson, RB, Memphis, TN*
4. Prince Tega Wanogho, DE, Elmore, AL
5. Jeff Holland, LB, Jacksonville, FL
6. Darius Slayton, WR, Norcross, GA
7. Jordan Colbert, S, Griffin, GA
8. Darrell Williams, OLB, Hoover, AL
9. Ryan Davis, WR, St. Petersburg, FL
10. Richard McBryde, OLB, Troy, AL

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

Auburn recovered just 25 percent of all fumbles in 2014, worst in the country. The Tigers still went 3-2 in one-possession games.

25.0%

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	35.5 ppg	4	25
Rushing	255.5 ypg	2	13
Passing	229.5 ypg	7	66
Total	485.0 ypg	2	16
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	26.7 ppg	10	62
Rushing	168.8 ypg	10	67
Passing	230.1 ypg	12	68
Total	398.8 ypg	9	64
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+7	+0.54	4	27

OFFENSE Few teams feel good about replacing six starters on offense, but Auburn should have little reason to worry. A blend of experienced backups ready to take the next step, incoming talent ready to make an instant impact and the mind of Gus Malzahn leave the Tigers in good position.

Expect Auburn's offense to change, though. Gone are the days of Nick Marshall's zone-read attack, replaced by a more balanced offense led by experienced backup Jeremy Johnson, who has been brilliant in brief glimpses over the past two seasons. D'haquille Williams (45 catches, 730 yards, five touchdowns) returns to lead the receiving corps, and reliable contributors Ricardo Louis and Marcus Davis — along with newcomer Jason Smith — look ready to step into the roles left by Sammie Coates and Quan Bray.

At running back, hyper-talented freshman Roc Thomas will compete against Jovon Robinson, the nation's No. 1 junior college transfer, for the right to take over the lead role in an offense that has produced 11 1,000-yard rushing seasons in Malzahn's nine years at the collegiate level. Those two will be running behind an offensive line that lost three starters but somehow returns six players who have made a start in the SEC, led by tackles Shon Coleman and Avery Young.

DEFENSE The big news in Auburn is the arrival of Will Muschamp, who tries to fix a defense that hasn't been dominant since the last time he roamed Auburn's sidelines.

Muschamp's toughest task is fixing a pass rush that produced just 10 sacks in eight SEC games. Getting Carl Lawson back from a torn ACL that cost him last season will help, as Muschamp plans to plug the sophomore into the "Buck," his hybrid defensive end-outside linebacker spot, and turn him loose. Lawson's presence should also help free Montravius Adams, a rising star at defensive tackle. Auburn lost four senior contributors at tackle, but redshirt freshman Dontavius Russell could be a star, and five-star defensive end Byron Cowart is on his way.

The top three tacklers from 2014 — safety Johnathan Ford, linebacker Cassanova McKinzy and linebacker Kris Frost — are all back, along with Jonathan Jones, who picked off six passes and earned second-team All-SEC honors. To that mix, Auburn adds the services of Tray Matthews, the former Georgia safety who looked like a star before he was dismissed following off-the-field issues. Now that his transfer year is complete, Matthews will be a physical presence in the back end.

SPECIALISTS Daniel Carlson stepped in as a freshman and instantly extended Auburn's run of reliable kickers, punching through 75 percent of his field goals in his first season. What he won't have to do this season is also handle the punting duties; Auburn signed punter Ian Shannon to take the load off of Carlson's leg. Who will fill big holes in the return game is anybody's guess; Auburn plans to audition a wide range of players through the spring and summer.

FINAL ANALYSIS Some moving parts have to come together for Auburn to once again be a player in the SEC West, but Malzahn's reputation as an offensive mind and Muschamp's prowess on defense mean the Tigers are a safe bet to make some noise. With Johnson at the helm, Auburn should be a dangerous passing team, and the combination of talent at both running back and offensive line, plus Malzahn's history of churning out 1,000-yard rushers, means Johnson should have a solid complement. The pressure, then, falls on Muschamp, who doesn't have to hold teams to 10 points or less; if he can get the Tigers around 20-24 points against per game, Auburn should be a contender.


JEREMY JOHNSON

"They're surprisingly physical. The spread gets a misnomer that it's not a physical attack, but their base play is power."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	**D'haquille Williams (Sr.)**	82	**Melvin Ray (Sr.)**	
WR	5	Ricardo Louis (Sr.)	8	Tony Stevens (Jr.)	
WR	4	Jason Smith (So.)	80	Marcus Davis (Jr.)	
LT	72	**Shon Coleman (Jr.)**	66	Bailey Sharp (Fr.)	
LG	63	Alex Kozan (Jr.)	53	**Devonte Danzey (Sr.)**	
C	73	Austin Golson (So.)	52	Xavier Dampeer (Sr.)	
RG	71	Braden Smith (So.)	76	Jordan Diamond (Jr.)	
RT	56	**Avery Young (Jr.)**	70	Robert Leff (Jr.)	
HB	36	Kamryn Pettway (Fr.)	27	Chandler Cox (Fr.)	
QB	6	Jeremy Johnson (Jr.)	13	Sean White (Fr.)	
RB	29	Jovon Robinson (Jr.)	9	Roc Thomas (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	97	Elijah Daniel (Jr.)		Byron Cowart (Fr.)	
DT	6	**DaVonte Lambert (Sr.)**	95	Dontavius Russell (Fr.)	
NT	1	**Montravius Adams (Jr.)**	90	Maurice Swain (Jr.)	
BUCK	55	Carl Lawson (Jr.)	59	Raashed Kennion (So.)	
OLB		Jeff Holland (Fr.)	24	Derrick Moncrief (Sr.)	
MLB	8	**Cassanova McKinzy (Sr.)**	30	Tre' Williams (So.)	
OLB	17	**Kris Frost (Sr.)**	26	Justin Garrett (Sr.)	
CB	3	**Jonathan Jones (Sr.)**	14	Stephen Roberts (So.)	
CB	15	Joshua Holsey (Sr.)		Carlton Davis (Fr.)	
S	39	Tray Matthews (So.)	22	Tim Irvin (Fr.)	
S	23	**Johnathan Ford (Jr.)**	19	Nick Ruffin (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Daniel Carlson (So.)	KR	5	Ricardo Louis (Sr.)
P		Ian Shannon (Fr.)	PR	80	Marcus Davis (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jeremy Johnson, 37-28-436-0, 3 TDs
Rushing: Ricardo Louis, 18 att., 220 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: D'haquille Williams, 45 rec., 730 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Johnathan Ford, 93
Sacks: Kris Frost, 3.5; DaVonte Lambert, 3.5
Interceptions: Jonathan Jones, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tami Chappell

LSU TIGERS

National Forecast: 15
SEC West Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Les Miles
Record at School: 103-29 (10 years)
Career Record: 131-50 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Cam Cameron
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Steele
Baton Rouge, LA • Tiger Stadium (102,321)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 McNeese State
12 at Mississippi State
19 Auburn
26 at Syracuse

OCTOBER
3 Eastern Michigan
10 at South Carolina
17 Florida
24 Western Kentucky

NOVEMBER
7 at Alabama
14 Arkansas
21 at Ole Miss
28 Texas A&M

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 4-4)

Aug.	30	vs. Wisconsin %		W	28-24
Sept.	6	Sam Houston State		W	56-0
Sept.	13	UL Monroe		W	31-0
Sept.	20	Mississippi State		L	29-34
Sept.	27	New Mexico State		W	63-7
Oct.	4	at Auburn		L	7-41
Oct.	11	at Florida		W	30-27
Oct.	18	Kentucky		W	41-3
Oct.	25	Ole Miss		W	10-7
Nov.	8	Alabama	(ot)	L	13-20
Nov.	15	at Arkansas		L	0-17
Nov.	27	at Texas A&M		W	23-17
Dec.	30	vs. Notre Dame #		L	28-31

%Houston #Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kevin Toliver II, CB, Jacksonville, FL
2. Tyron Johnson, WR, New Orleans, LA
3. Maea Teuhema, G, Keller, TX
4. Derrius Guice, RB, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Donte Jackson, CB, New Orleans, LA
6. Arden Key, DE, Lithonia, GA
7. Chidi Valentine-Okeke, T, Ludowici, GA
8. Toby Weathersby, T, Houston, TX
9. Derrick Dillon, WR, Franklinton, LA
10. Xavier Lewis, CB, LaPlace, LA

STAT CORNER

5.62

Average yards per play for LSU in 2014, 62nd in the country. The Tigers predictably plummeted from 6.94 per play in 2013.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	27.6 ppg	13	73
Rushing	224.5 ypg	4	23
Passing	162.9 ypg	14	114
Total	387.5 ypg	9	77
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	17.5 ppg	2	5
Rushing	152.7 ypg	7	46
Passing	164.2 ypg	1	3
Total	316.8 ypg	1	9
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+3	+0.23	8	48

OFFENSE Another spring in Baton Rouge and another quarterback controversy after 2014 provided little to no clarity in the race between Anthony Jennings and Brandon Harris. Coach Les Miles said the two quarterbacks split the snaps in the spring but indicated that Jennings — who completed only 49 percent of his passes last season — had the upper hand in closed scrimmages. Maturity issues and a failure to learn the playbook plagued Harris last season, and he's admitted as much. Jennings heads into the fall as the frontrunner, but the position is far from settled.

Miles claims that tailback Leonard Fournette is bigger and stronger after almost a full year in the Tigers' strength and conditioning program, so expect the Tigers to abandon the committee approach and allow the former five-star recruit to handle the majority of the work. He is poised for a huge season.

Poor quarterback play limited the production of a young but talented group of wide receivers. Travin Dural, who led the team with 37 receptions for 758 yards, was the only Tiger to catch more than 17 passes in 2014. Malachi Dupre, a top recruit in 2014, is poised for a breakout season if he can stay healthy.

The Tigers lose two valuable members of their offensive line but are well-equipped to move forward without taking a step back. Jerald Hawkins has the unenviable task of replacing three-year starter La'el Collins at left tackle. Hawkins has started every game he's played at LSU but now must shift from right to left tackle.

DEFENSE The moniker "DB U." is tossed around Baton Rouge as each new crop of defensive backs expects to be as good as their past teammates now in the NFL. Cornerback Tre'Davious White, the leader of not only the secondary but also the entire defense, is bringing along Ed Paris and early enrollee Kevin Toliver II to carry on the tradition. "We're still DB U. It's just different cats," Paris said during the spring. Jalen Mills, a former Freshman All-American as a cornerback, and Jamal Adams will form a dynamic safety duo in what figures to be one of the most talented secondaries in the SEC.

Issues surrounded the inexperienced LSU defensive line from the start in 2014 as an endless rotation of players made it difficult for the unit to have any continuity. Christian LaCouture and Davon Godchaux have settled in nicely at defensive tackle, but there is concern at defensive end. With new coordinator Kevin Steele's experience in a 3-4 base defense, the Tigers may play more three-man fronts as they continue to search for playmaking ends.

The insertion of true freshman Kendell Beckwith into the lineup at Florida ignited the LSU linebacker corps, a unit maligned during much of 2014 for its inability to play sideline to sideline. Beckwith, the team's second-leading tackler in 2014, brings a youthful energy and a ton of athleticism to the middle linebacker spot.

SPECIALISTS The once-automatic Colby Delahoussaye struggled late in his sophomore season, missing three of his final four attempts. He will battle classmate Trent Domingue for the placekicking duties in preseason camp. Jamie Keehn returns as the Tigers' punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's pretty simple: LSU needs much better play from the quarterback position in 2015. Whoever gets the starting nod must improve on an anemic passing attack that failed to throw for more than 150 yards in seven of eight SEC games. Fournette is a star, but he can't carry an entire offense on those broad shoulders. The defense, led by a top-flight secondary, will be strong — if not elite like LSU defenses of the recent past. The Tigers are talented enough to be a factor in the rugged SEC West — only if the passing offense improves.



LEONARD FOURNETTE

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

"If they can get better quarterback play, they'll be one of the better offenses in our league."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	83	**Travin Dural (Jr.)**	8	**Trey Quinn (So.)**	
WR	15	Malachi Dupre (So.)	9	John Diarse (So.)	
LT	65	**Jerald Hawkins (Jr.)**	71	Jonah Austin (Sr.)	
LG	77	**Ethan Pocic (Jr.)**	63	K.J. Malone (So.)	
C	64	Will Clapp (Fr.)	72	Andy Dodd (So.)	
RG	78	Garrett Brumfield (Fr.)	76	Josh Boutte (Jr.)	
RT	74	**Vadal Alexander (Sr.)**	71	Jonah Austin (Sr.)	
TE	85	**Dillon Gordon (Sr.)**	89	DeSean Smith (Jr.)	
QB	10	**Anthony Jennings (Jr.)**	6	Brandon Harris (So.)	
FB	41	David Ducre (Fr.)	47	John David Moore (So.)	
RB	7	Leonard Fournette (So.)	34	Darrel Williams (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	46	Tashawn Bower (Jr.)		Arden Key (Fr.)
LT	91	**Christian LaCouture (Jr.)**	97	Frank Herron (So.)
RT	57	**Davon Godchaux (So.)**	99	Greg Gilmore (So.)
DE	92	Lewis Neal (Jr.)	90	Maquedius Bain (So.)
SLB	11	**Lamar Louis (Sr.)**	40	Duke Riley (Jr.)
MLB	52	**Kendell Beckwith (Jr.)**	30	Clifton Garrett (So.)
OLB	45	Deion Jones (Sr.)	22	Ronnie Feist (Jr.)
CB	16	**Tre'Davious White (Jr.)**	13	Dwayne Thomas (Jr.)
CB	24	Ed Paris (So.)	2	Kevin Toliver II (Fr.)
SS	33	Jamal Adams (So.)	26	John Battle (So.)
FS	28	**Jalen Mills (Sr.)**	29	Rickey Jefferson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Colby Delahoussaye (Jr.)	KR	7	Leonard Fournette (So.)
P	38	Jamie Keehn (Sr.)	PR	16	Tre'Davious White (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anthony Jennings, 227-111-1,611-7, 11 TDs
Rushing: Leonard Fournette, 187 att., 1,034 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Travin Dural, 37 rec., 758 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Kendell Beckwith, 77
Sacks: Christian LaCouture, 2.5
Interceptions: Rickey Jefferson, 2; Tre'Davious White, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

OLE MISS REBELS

National Forecast: 11
SEC West Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Hugh Freeze
Record at School: 24-15 (3 years)
Career Record: 54-22 (6 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Matt Luke, Dan Werner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Jason Jones, Dave Wommack
Oxford, MS
Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Tennessee-Martin
12 Fresno State
19 at Alabama
26 Vanderbilt

OCTOBER
3 at Florida
10 New Mexico State
17 at Memphis
24 Texas A&M
31 at Auburn

NOVEMBER
7 Arkansas
21 LSU
28 at Mississippi State

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug.	28	vs. Boise State %	W	35-13
Sept.	6	at Vanderbilt (LP Field)	W	41-3
Sept.	13	Louisiana	W	56-15
Sept.	27	Memphis	W	24-3
Oct.	4	Alabama	W	23-17
Oct.	11	at Texas A&M	W	35-20
Oct.	18	Tennessee	W	34-3
Oct.	25	at LSU	L	7-10
Nov.	1	Auburn	L	31-35
Nov.	8	Presbyterian	W	48-0
Nov.	22	at Arkansas	L	0-30
Nov.	29	Mississippi State	W	31-17
Dec.	31	vs. TCU #	L	3-42

%Atlanta #Peach Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. DaMarkus Lodge, WR, Cedar Hill, TX
2. Javon Patterson, OL, Petal, MS
3. Van Jefferson, WR, Brentwood, TN
4. Eric Swinney, RB, Fayetteville, GA
5. D.J. Jones, DT, Piedmont, SC*
6. Tony Bridges, CB, Hattiesburg*
7. Armani Linton, DB, Walnut, MS
8. Willie Hibbler, TE, Sardis, MS
9. Cameron Ordway, CB, Pulaski, TN
10. Jason Pellerin, QB, New Iberia, LA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

The last time Ole Miss allowed fewer than the 4.67 yards per play the Land Shark defense gave up in 2014 (seventh in FBS).

1994

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	28.3 ppg	11	67
Rushing	155.5 ypg	10	73
Passing	263.6 ypg	5	37
Total	419.1 ypg	7	51
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	16.0 ppg	1	1
Rushing	136.9 ypg	5	29
Passing	192.1 ypg	3	16
Total	329.0 ypg	4	13
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+7	0.54	4	27

OFFENSE Hugh Freeze was hired because of his offense, but Ole Miss was less than dynamic on that side of the ball last year. While the Rebels led the nation in scoring defense, they were just No. 67 in scoring offense. That could change this year if a more experienced offensive line is more productive, and if Chad Kelly, the nation's No. 1 junior college quarterback, plays with passion and focus and moves away from issues that led to his dismissal at Clemson last spring and an arrest in the winter.

No quarterback starter was named in the spring as Kelly competed with third-year sophomores Ryan Buchanan and DeVante Kincade. Kelly's arm strength, accuracy and mobility make him the favorite. Understanding this is likely his last opportunity to lead a major college football team may make him more focused.

All five starters return on the offensive line. Most of the time that's a good thing. Left tackle Laremy Tunsil is a likely top NFL Draft pick, but the Rebels couldn't gain consistency around him last year. Freshman Javon Patterson, rated the nation's No. 3 guard by 247Sports, should help on the interior. There is potential among other young players, but a handful of linemen will have to work their way back from offseason injuries, including Tunsil, who sustained a fractured fibula and dislocated ankle in the Rebels' Peach Bowl loss to TCU.

Also coming back from injury is wide receiver Laquon Treadwell, another potential top-10 NFL Draft pick.

DEFENSE The Rebels lost two All-Americans in the secondary, but defensive coordinator Dave Wommack was so impressed with new corners Tony Bridges and Tee Shepard that he moved returning starter Mike Hilton to safety before the start of spring drills. Bridges and Sheperd are both tall, long and physical.

Veteran Trae Elston moves from strong safety to free where he'll help tutor a talented sophomore, C.J. Hampton.

Robert Nkemdiche, another All-American, is back at defensive tackle. Like Tunsil and Treadwell, Nkemdiche is expected to exit the draft board quickly next spring. Unlike Tunsil and Treadwell, he heads into August camp injury-free and in great condition.

He'll get an assist this season from junior college transfer D.J. Jones, an athletic 300-pounder who should provide both mass and quickness to help stiffen a run defense that wasn't as dominant as the Rebs' pass defense in 2014. Nkemdiche gets the headlines for this unit, and deservedly so.

The hidden gem is safety Tony Conner, the fifth defensive back in the 4-2-5. He plays usually near the line of scrimmage and is a sure tackler with good coverage skills.

Middle linebacker is a position to watch. C.J. Johnson will get a lot of work there, but not so much on third downs, and the position will have a committee feel.

SPECIALISTS Will Gleeson at punter and Gary Wunderlich at placekicker are both returning starters. Gleeson often punts on the run to get extended roll. He pinned opponents inside the 20 on 24 of 58 punts last year. The Rebels must replace Will Denny, a four-year long snapper.

FINAL ANALYSIS This may be Freeze's last chance to do something big with the vaunted 2013 signing class. Barring the unforeseen, Tunsil, Nkemdiche and Treadwell will likely be gone after this season. Conner may join them.

There are questions on offense, but Kelly should make a seamless transition. Freeze helped the lightly recruited Bo Wallace become a three-year starter and tie Eli Manning with 24 career wins.

The defensive line is strong, and if the corners play as well as expected, Ole Miss will again be a factor in the SEC West.



ROBERT NKEMDICHE

"They're different because they don't really try to run the ball. They just run it because they have to."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	1	**Laquon Treadwell (Jr.)**	8	Quincy Adeboyejo (Jr.)	
WR	88	**Cody Core (Sr.)**	3	Damore'ea Stringfellow (So.)	
WR	11	Markell Pack (So.)		DaMarkus Lodge (Fr.)	
LT	78	**Laremy Tunsil (Jr.)**	69	Jeremy Liggins (Jr.)	
LG	72	**Aaron Morris (Sr.)**	79	Javon Patterson (Fr.)	
C	64	**Ben Still (Sr.)**	75	Robert Conyers (Jr.)	
RG	68	**Justin Bell (Sr.)**	73	Rod Taylor (So.)	
RT	74	**Fahn Cooper (Sr.)**	71	Christian Morris (So.)	
TE	17	**Evan Engram (Jr.)**	12	Sammie Epps (Fr.)	
QB	10	Chad Kelly (Jr.)	9	Ryan Buchanan (So.)	
RB	6	**Jaylen Walton (Sr.)**	21	Akeem Judd (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	14	Victor Evans (Fr.)	10	C.J. Johnson (Sr.)
NT	94	**Issac Gross (Sr.)**	56	Woodrow Hamilton (Sr.)
DT	5	**Robert Nkemdiche (Jr.)**	93	D.J. Jones (Jr.)
DE	90	**Fadol Brown (Jr.)**	27	Marquis Haynes (So.)
OLB	4	Denzel Nkemdiche (Sr.)	31	DeMarquis Gates (So.)
MLB	10	**C.J. Johnson (Sr.)**	20	Christian Russell (Sr.)
HUSK	12	**Tony Conner (Jr.)**	35	D.K. Buford (Fr.)
CB	1	Tony Bridges (Jr.)	15	Kendarius Webster (So.)
CB	2	Tee Shepard (Jr.)		Cameron Ordway (Fr.)
S	28	**Mike Hilton (Sr.)**	26	C.J. Moore (So.)
S	7	**Trae Elston (Sr.)**	3	C.J. Hampton (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Gary Wunderlich (So.)	KR	6	Jaylen Walton (Sr.)
P	94	Will Gleeson (So.)	PR		Jaylen Julius (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Buchanan, 22-12-75-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jaylen Walton, 106 att., 586 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Laquon Treadwell, 48 rec., 632 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Mike Hilton, 71
Sacks: Marquis Haynes, 7.5
Interceptions: Mike Hilton, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

National Forecast: 21
SEC West Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Dan Mullen
Record at School: 46-31 (6 years)
Career Record: 46-31 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Billy Gonzales, John Hevesy
Defensive Coordinator: Manny Diaz
Starkville, MS
Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field (61,337)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Southern Miss	
12	LSU	
19	Northwestern State	
26	at Auburn	
OCTOBER		
3	at Texas A&M	
10	Troy	
17	Louisiana Tech	
24	Kentucky	
NOVEMBER		
5	at Missouri	
14	Alabama	
21	at Arkansas	
28	Ole Miss	

2014 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Aug.	30	Southern Miss	W	49-0
Sept.	6	UAB	W	47-34
Sept.	13	at South Alabama	W	35-3
Sept.	20	at LSU	W	34-29
Oct.	4	Texas A&M	W	48-31
Oct.	11	Auburn	W	38-23
Oct.	25	at Kentucky	W	45-31
Nov.	1	Arkansas	W	17-10
Nov.	8	Tennessee-Martin	W	45-16
Nov.	15	at Alabama	L	20-25
Nov.	22	Vanderbilt	W	51-0
Nov.	29	at Ole Miss	L	17-37
Dec.	31	vs. Georgia Tech #	L	34-49

#Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamal Peters, S, Bassfield, MS
2. Leo Lewis, ILB, Brookhaven, MS
3. Fletcher Adams, DE, Brandon, MS
4. Donald Gray, WR, Wesson, MS*
5. Martinas Rankin, OT, Perkinston, MS*
6. Malik Dear, ATH, Jackson, MS
7. Nick Gibson, RB, Pinson, AL
8. Timothy Washington, Yazoo City, MS
9. Maurice Smitherman, CB, Adamsville, AL
10. Traver Jung, OLB, Goodman, MS*

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

3.6

Points per trip inside the 40-yard line allowed by the MSU defense in 2014, eighth-fewest in the nation. The Bulldogs bent — but did not break.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	36.9 ppg	3	16
Rushing	233.1 ypg	3	21
Passing	280.7 ypg	3	22
Total	513.8 ypg	1	8
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	21.7 ppg	8	23
Rushing	151.5 ypg	6	44
Passing	272.8 ypg	14	114
Total	424.4 ypg	12	84
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
0	0.00	10	59

OFFENSE The biggest reason Mississippi State and its fans believe 2014 wasn't a one-hit wonder is Dak Prescott, who set 12 single-season records during his breakout junior campaign. He became the first Bulldog ever to finish a season with more than 3,000 total yards, piling up 4,470. This year he'll be asked to do even more, but with less around him. Three quarterbacks wait in the wings for their opportunity next season — junior Damian Williams and a pair of redshirt freshmen, Nick Fitzgerald and Elijah Staley.

The Bulldogs must replace running back Josh Robinson and his 1,203 rushing yards. Ashton Shumpert ended last year with some momentum, gaining 207 yards in the final four games of the regular season. The job won't be handed to him, however. Redshirt freshmen Dontavian Lee and Aeris Williams are fighting for time, and true freshman and early enrollee Malik Dear also got some reps in the spring.

De'Runnya Wilson returns as one of the top receivers in the SEC. He caught 47 passes for 680 yards and nine scores last season. Slot receiver Jameon Lewis must be replaced. Top candidates are Gabe Myles and junior college transfer Donald Gray.

There's no bigger question for Mississippi State heading into 2015 than the offensive line. The Bulldogs must identify new starters at tackle, guard and center. They have replacements at guard and tackle but lost all three of their centers to graduation.

DEFENSE The Bulldogs are without three starters on the defensive front heading into 2015, but the losses look worse on paper than in reality. Chris Jones, arguably the team's most talented defensive player, technically did not start last year and will slide into one of the open spots at tackle. The losses at end, however, could be a bit of an issue. Preston Smith takes his team-high nine sacks and 15 tackles for a loss to the NFL. Senior Ryan Brown will be asked to replace Smith's production.

Gerri Green, a talented redshirt freshman, is in position to take over for Benardrick McKinney at middle linebacker. The coaches love his potential, but replacing the best player on the defense is a lot to ask. Outside backer Beniquez Brown, who finished second on the team in tackles last season, will be asked to replace McKinney's production and leadership. MSU's coaches and players rave about his football IQ.

Mississippi State's defense allowed the most passing yards in the SEC last year. The Bulldogs lose three starters from the secondary, including both safeties. Kivon Coman and Deontay Evans worked at safety with the first-team defense during spring practice. Freshman Jamal Peters will be tough to keep off the field when he arrives in the fall. Taveze Calhoun, who started all 13 games at corner last season, did not participate in the spring due to injury but will be good to go in the fall.

SPECIALISTS Mississippi State found a reliable option at kicker in 2014 after a disastrous 2013. Unfortunately, that option is not available in 2015. Evan Sobiesk, who made 12-of-14 attempts last year, left the team to pursue a career in dentistry. Devon Bell, the punter, is the only player on the roster with a made field goal in his career, but he has converted only 6-of-14 attempts. Bell returned to field-goal kicking in the spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS Mississippi State loses seven starters on offense and eight on defense. That much turnover won't be easy to overcome. The expectations with the fans won't change, though, after they tasted the promised land last year with a No. 1 ranking. Prescott, one of the best players in the SEC, will be able to mask a lot of the holes. How many and how well could decide the Bulldogs' season.



DAK PRESCOTT

"Dak Prescott isn't the most talented guy, but I just think he's a winner. As long as he's there, they can be really good."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	1	**De'Runnya Wilson (Jr.)**	5	Fred Brown (Jr.)	
WR	8	Fred Ross (Jr.)	86	Jesse Jackson (Fr.)	
WR	35	Gabe Myles (So.)	6	Donald Gray (Jr.)	
LT	58	**Justin Senior (Jr.)**	73	Elgton Jenkins (Fr.)	
LG	62	Devon Desper (Jr.)	74	Kent Flowers (So.)	
C	60	Jamaal Clayborn (Jr.)	64	Jocquell Johnson (Jr.)	
RG	70	**Justin Malone (Sr.)**	61	Deion Calhoun (Fr.)	
RT	77	Rufus Warren (Sr.)	75	Martinas Rankin (Jr.)	
TE	84	Darrion Hutcherson (Sr.)	19	Gus Walley (Jr.)	
QB	15	**Dak Prescott (Sr.)**	11	Damian Williams (Jr.)	
RB	32	Ashton Shumpert (Jr.)	27	Aeris Williams (Fr.)	

DEFENSE (3)

DE	48	**Ryan Brown (Sr.)**	49	Torrey Dale (Jr.)
DT	96	Chris Jones (Jr.)	88	Nick James (Jr.)
DT	94	Nelson Adams (Jr.)	34	Cory Thomas (Fr.)
DE	47	A.J. Jefferson (Jr.)	57	Will Coleman (Jr.)
LB	39	Richie Brown (Jr.)	14	Zach Jackson (Sr.)
LB	4	Gerri Green (Fr.)	45	J.T. Gray (So.)
LB	42	**Beniquez Brown (Jr.)**	28	DeAndre Ward (Jr.)
CB	2	Will Redmond (Sr.)	31	Tolando Cleveland (Jr.)
CB	23	**Taveze Calhoun (Sr.)**	13	Cedric Jiles (Jr.)
SS	17	Deontay Evans (Jr.)	20	Brandon Bryant (Fr.)
FS		Jamal Peters (Fr.)	11	Kivon Coman (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Devon Bell (Sr.)	KR	6	Donald Gray (Jr.)
P	40	Devon Bell (Sr.)	PR	8	Fred Ross (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dak Prescott, 396-244-3,449-11, 27 TDs
Rushing: Dak Prescott, 210 att., 986 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: De'Runnya Wilson, 47 rec., 680 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Beniquez Brown, 62
Sacks: Ryan Brown, 3.5
Interceptions: Will Redmond, 3; Richie Brown, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

National Forecast: 20
SEC West Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Kevin Sumlin
Record at School: 28-11 (3 years)
Career Record: 63-28 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jake Spavital
Defensive Coordinator: John Chavis
College Station, TX • Kyle Field (102,512)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	vs. Arizona State #	
12	Ball State	
19	Nevada	
26	vs. Arkansas %	
OCTOBER		
3	Mississippi State	
17	Alabama	
24	at Ole Miss	
31	South Carolina	
NOVEMBER		
7	Auburn	
14	Western Carolina	
21	at Vanderbilt	
28	at LSU	

#Houston, TX %Arlington, TX

2014 RESULTS (8-5, 3-5)

Aug.	28	at South Carolina	W	52-28
Sept.	6	Lamar	W	73-3
Sept.	13	Rice	W	38-10
Sept.	20	at SMU	W	58-6
Sept.	27	vs. Arkansas % (ot)	W	35-28
Oct.	4	at Mississippi State	L	31-48
Oct.	11	Ole Miss	L	20-35
Oct.	18	at Alabama	L	0-59
Nov.	1	UL Monroe	W	21-16
Nov.	8	at Auburn	W	41-38
Nov.	15	Missouri	L	27-34
Nov.	27	LSU	L	17-23
Dec.	29	vs. West Virginia #	W	45-37

%Arlington #Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daylon Mack, DT, Gladewater, TX
2. Christian Kirk, WR, Scottsdale, AZ
3. Kyler Murray, QB, Allen, TX
4. Justin Dunning, S, Whitehouse, TX
5. James Lockhart, DE, Ennis, TX
6. Larry Pryor, S, Sulphur Springs, TX
7. Keaton Sutherland, OT, Flower Mound, TX
8. Connor Lanfear, OT, Buda, TX
9. Roney Elam, CB, Newton, TX
10. Jordan Davis, TE, Texas City TX

Texas A&M has spent time in the AP top 10 in each of the last four seasons. The Aggies have only finished there once.

STAT CORNER

4

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	35.2 ppg	5	26
Rushing	149.9 ypg	12	82
Passing	305.5 ypg	1	12
Total	455.4 ypg	5	30
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	11	75
Rushing	216.0 ypg	14	109
Passing	234.8 ypg	13	80
Total	450.8 ypg	14	102
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-7	-0.54	13	105

OFFENSE If his freshman season is any indication, quarterback Kyle Allen will develop into one of the top passers in the SEC. Thrust into the starting lineup in November, Allen threw three touchdown passes against Missouri and four against Auburn and West Virginia. Allen, an Arizona native, aims to pick up where he left off in the season opener against Arizona State.

Still, Allen must stave off a challenge from highly touted freshman Kyler Murray — assuming Murray doesn't sign a professional baseball contract. Whoever emerges has an array of talented receivers to target. Sophomore Speedy Noil is the deep threat his name would suggest, while junior Josh Reynolds set a school record with 13 touchdown catches.

The Aggies must run more effectively, though. More production is desperately needed from running backs Tra Carson and Brandon Williams, who are running behind an offensive line that didn't meet A&M's typical standards in 2014. The Aggies allowed 27 sacks and failed too often to convert short-yardage situations. Enter former Wyoming head coach Dave Christensen, who will coordinate the running game and coach the offensive line. He's stressed better technique and a more aggressive mentality.

DEFENSE Frustrated from two years of inept defensive play, coach Kevin Sumlin convinced John Chavis, one of the nation's most respected defensive coordinators, to leave LSU and come to College Station. The move cost A&M $1.7 million per season, but if Chavis can rejuvenate the once-proud "Wrecking Crew," that price tag will look like a bargain.

Athletic pass-rushing ends are of utmost importance in Chavis' scheme, and he has them. Myles Garrett set an SEC freshman record with 11.5 sacks and projects to be even better in 2015. The Aggies believe they will be able to apply pressure from the other end, too. Junior Daeshon Hall has bulked up to 260 pounds and seems primed for a breakout year. Senior tackle Alonzo Williams is effective against the run but desperately needs help inside.

The linebacker position has been especially moribund the past two seasons, but there are some signs of improvement. Sophomore Otaro Alaka showed steady improvement and was named Defensive MVP of the Liberty Bowl. However, injuries have been a recurring problem. Junior college transfer Claude George had a strong showing in the spring at middle linebacker and figures to upgrade A&M's run defense immediately.

The Aggies also need to improve their pass defense. Senior cornerback De'Vante Harris has started since his freshman season, but he's also been inconsistent. He may flourish in Chavis' aggressive press coverage scheme. A&M is in better shape at safety. Armani Watts aims to build on a solid true freshman season in which he grabbed three picks. Junior college transfer Justin Evans drew raves in the spring.

SPECIALISTS Punter is an area of strength. Drew Kaser, a Ray Guy Award finalist, is among the best in the country. Placekicking is another matter. Taylor Bertolet has great range but questionable accuracy. He's converted just 4-of-12 field goal attempts between 30 and 49 yards and has missed 10 extra points.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Aggies have learned they can go only so far in the SEC without a strong defense. Therefore, they're counting on Chavis to rebuild a unit that ranked 102nd in the nation and last in the SEC in total defense in 2014. Chavis has young talent with which to work but obviously faces a tall task. The Aggies have a high-scoring offense loaded with big-play threats, so they can be a serious contender in the SEC with a respectable defense. How quickly can Chavis deliver?



MYLES GARRETT

"They probably have the most talented defensive player in our league in Myles Garrett. He's phenomenal."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	2	Speedy Noil (So.)	18	**Ed Pope (Jr.)**	
WR	11	**Josh Reynolds (Jr.)**	15	Frank Iheanacho (So.)	
IR	9	**Ricky Seals-Jones (So.)**	19	Jeremy Tabuyo (Jr.)	
IR	3	Christian Kirk (Fr.)	23	Sabian Holmes (Sr.)	
LT	65	Avery Gennesy (Jr.)	75	Koda Martin (Fr.)	
LG	72	Jermaine Eluemunor (Jr.)	78	Keaton Sutherland (Fr.)	
C	56	**Mike Matthews (Sr.)**	73	Jeremiah Stuckey (Jr.)	
RG	79	**Joseph Cheek (Sr.)**	72	Jermaine Eluemunor (Jr.)	
RT	74	**Germain Ifedi (Jr.)**	75	Koda Martin (Fr.)	
QB	10	Kyle Allen (So.)		Kyler Murray (Fr.)	
RB	21	Tra Carson (Sr.)	1	Brandon Williams (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	15	**Myles Garrett (So.)**	9	Qualen Cunningham (So.)
DT	83	**Alonzo Williams (Sr.)**		Daylon Mack (Fr.)
NG	98	Hardreck Walker (Jr.)	92	Zaycoven Henderson (So.)
DE	95	**Julien Obioha (Sr.)**	10	Daeshon Hall (Jr.)
OLB	42	Otaro Alaka (So.)	7	Richard Moore (Fr.)
MLB	11	Josh Walker (So.)	31	Claude George (Jr.)
OLB	46	A.J. Hilliard (Jr.)	33	Shaan Washington (Jr.)
CB	1	**De'Vante Harris (Sr.)**	22	Tavares Garner (Jr.)
CB	28	Victor Davis (So.)	8	Nick Harvey (So.)
S	14	Justin Evans (So.)	6	Donovan Wilson (So.)
S	23	**Armani Watts (So.)**	26	**Devonta Burns (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	24	Taylor Bertolet (Sr.)	KR	2	Speedy Noil (So.)
P	38	Drew Kaser (Sr.)	PR	2	Speedy Noil (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kyle Allen, 192-118-1,322-7, 16 TDs
Rushing: Tra Carson, 124 att., 581 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Josh Reynolds, 52 rec., 842 yds., 13 TDs
Tackles: Shaan Washington, 64
Sacks: Myles Garrett, 11.5
Interceptions: Armani Watts, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Layne Murdoch Jr.

SUN BELT PREVIEW



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. ARKANSAS STATE **RED WOLVES** 8-4, 7-1 SUN BELT
2. GEORGIA SOUTHERN **EAGLES** 8-4, 6-2 SUN BELT
3. UL LAFAYETTE **RAGIN' CAJUNS** 8-4, 6-2 SUN BELT
4. APPALACHIAN STATE **MOUNTAINEERS** 8-4, 5-3 SUN BELT
5. TEXAS STATE **BOBCATS** 7-5, 5-3 SUN BELT
6. SOUTH ALABAMA **JAGUARS** 5-7, 4-4 SUN BELT
7. ULM **WARHAWKS** 5-8, 4-4 SUN BELT
8. TROY **TROJANS** 4-8, 3-5 SUN BELT
9. NEW MEXICO STATE **AGGIES** 2-10, 2-6 SUN BELT
10. IDAHO **VANDALS** 2-10, 1-7 SUN BELT
11. GEORGIA STATE **PANTHERS** 3-9, 1-7 SUN BELT

2014 BOWL RESULTS

GoDaddy Bowl: Toledo 63, Arkansas State 44
New Orleans Bowl: UL Lafayette 16, Nevada 3
Camellia Bowl: Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28

2015 BOWL PROJECTIONS

GoDaddy Bowl: Arkansas State vs. Western Michigan
New Orleans Bowl: UL Lafayette vs. UTEP
Cure Bowl: Georgia Southern vs. UCF
Camellia Bowl: Appalachian State vs. Akron

Arkansas State: Arkansas State Athletics; Georgia Southern: GSU Athletics

2014 SUN BELT STANDINGS

	SUN BELT	OVERALL
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	8-0	9-3
UL LAFAYETTE	7-1	9-4
APPALACHIAN STATE	6-2	7-5
TEXAS STATE	5-3	7-5
ARKANSAS STATE	5-3	7-6
SOUTH ALABAMA	5-3	6-7
ULM	3-5	4-8
TROY	3-5	3-9
NEW MEXICO STATE	1-7	2-10
IDAHO	1-7	1-10
GEORGIA STATE	0-8	1-11

2015 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
APPALACHIAN STATE	4	3	2	2	1	3	2
ARKANSAS STATE	1	4	1	3	2	5	3
GEORGIA STATE	5	11	4	11	10	10	11
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	2	2	11	8	4	4	9
IDAHO	10	9	10	9	8	8	10
NEW MEXICO STATE	9	5	9	6	11	6	8
SOUTH ALABAMA	6	8	6	4	9	7	4
TEXAS STATE	3	6	8	5	7	9	6
TROY	8	7	7	7	6	11	7
UL LAFAYETTE	7	1	5	1	5	2	5
ULM	11	10	3	10	3	1	1

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Louisiana-Lafayette 2. South Alabama 3. Arkansas State
4. Georgia Southern 5. Texas State 6. ULM 7. Troy 8. Appalachian State
9. New Mexico State 10. Idaho 11.Georgia State



PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAMS

First-Team Offense

QB	Fredi Knighten	5-11	189	Sr.	Arkansas State
RB	Matt Breida	5-10	185	Jr.	Georgia Southern
RB	Elijah McGuire	5-11	208	Jr.	UL Lafayette
WR	Donovan Harden	5-11	175	Sr.	Georgia State
WR	Ajalen Holley	5-10	197	Jr.	ULM
WR	Teldrick Morgan	6-0	185	Jr.	New Mexico State
C	Dalton Bennett	6-3	301	Sr.	Troy
G	Darien Foreman	6-2	305	Sr.	Georgia Southern
G	Mykhael Quave	6-5	294	Sr.	UL Lafayette
T	Adrian Bellard	6-5	314	Sr.	Texas State
T	Chris May	6-5	290	Sr.	South Alabama

First-Team Defense

DL	Ronald Blair	6-4	275	Sr.	Appalachian State
DL	Gerrand Johnson	6-1	290	Sr.	ULM
DL	Ja'Von Rolland-Jones	6-2	224	So.	Arkansas State
DL	Chris Stone	6-3	252	Sr.	Arkansas State
LB	Hunter Kissinger	6-3	237	Sr.	ULM
LB	John Law	6-0	235	Jr.	Appalachian State
LB	Joseph Peterson	6-0	225	Sr.	Georgia State
CB	Doug Middleton	6-0	205	Sr.	Appalachian State
CB	David Mims II	5-11	198	Sr.	Texas State
S	Montres Kitchens	6-0	180	Sr.	Troy
S	Mitch Lane	6-1	215	Sr.	UL Monroe

First-Team Specialists

K	Aleem Sunanon	5-7	170	Jr.	South Alabama
P	Austin Rehkow	6-3	215	Jr.	Idaho
KR	Derek Keaton	5-10	180	Sr.	Georgia Southern
PR	Blaise Taylor	5-9	170	So.	Arkansas State

Second-Team Offense

QB	Kevin Ellison	6-0	190	Jr.	Georgia Southern
RB	Marcus Cox	5-10	200	Jr.	Appalachian State
RB	Michael Gordon	5-9	187	Sr.	Arkansas State
WR	Dezmon Epps	5-10	170	Sr.	Idaho
WR	Jamal Robinson	6-4	205	Sr.	UL Lafayette
TE	Joel Ruiz	6-4	240	Sr.	Georgia State
C	Joseph Scelfo	6-1	300	Jr.	South Alabama
G	Cameron Blankenship	6-5	285	Sr.	South Alabama
G	Isaiah Folasa-Lutui	6-3	309	Sr.	New Mexico State
T	Antonio Garcia	6-7	295	Jr.	Troy
T	Colton Jackson	6-4	276	Jr.	Arkansas State

Second-Team Defense

DL	Quinton Bradley	6-3	252	Sr.	Idaho
DL	Jay Ellison	6-1	305	Jr.	Georgia Southern
DL	Jimmie Gipson III	6-0	255	Sr.	South Alabama
DL	Tyler Roberts	6-2	230	Sr.	Troy
LB	Rodney Butler	6-1	212	Jr.	New Mexico State
LB	Dominique Tovell	6-2	235	Sr.	UL Lafayette
LB	Xavier Woodson	6-1	214	Jr.	Arkansas State
CB	Trey Caldwell	5-9	192	Sr.	ULM
CB	Rocky Hayes	5-11	177	Sr.	Arkansas State
S	Roman Buchanan	6-2	210	Jr.	South Alabama
S	Matt Dobson	6-2	200	Sr.	Georgia Southern

Second-Team Specialists

K	Austin Rehkow	6-3	215	Jr.	Idaho
P	Brandon McKee	6-1	185	Jr.	South Alabama
KR	Teldrick Morgan	6-0	185	Jr.	New Mexico State
PR	Rashon Ceaser	6-0	196	Sr.	ULM

APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS

National Forecast: 90
Sun Belt Prediction: 4

Head Coach: Scott Satterfield
Record at School: 11-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 11-13 (2 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Dwayne Ledford, Frank Ponce
Defensive Coordinator: Nate Woody
Boone, NC • Kidd Brewer Stadium (23,150)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Howard
12 at Clemson
26 at Old Dominion

OCTOBER
3 Wyoming
10 at Georgia State
17 at UL Monroe
22 Georgia Southern
31 Troy

NOVEMBER
5 Arkansas State
14 at Idaho
28 UL Lafayette

DECEMBER
5 at South Alabama

2014 RESULTS (7-5, 6-2)

Aug.	30	at Michigan	L	14-52
Sept.	6	Campbell	W	66-0
Sept.	20	at Southern Miss	L	20-21
Sept.	25	at Georgia Southern	L	14-34
Oct.	4	South Alabama	L	21-47
Oct.	11	Liberty	L	48-55
Oct.	18	at Troy	W	53-14
Nov.	1	Georgia State	W	44-0
Nov.	8	UL Monroe	W	31-29
Nov.	15	at Arkansas State	W	37-32
Nov.	22	at UL Lafayette	W	35-16
Nov.	29	Idaho	W	45-28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daniel David, QB, Hoschton, GA
2. Zireycus Letman, WR, Lincolnton, GA*
3. Mock Adams, WR, Greenwood, SC
4. Desmond Franklin, ATH, Inverness, FL
5. Josh Thomas, ATH, Montgomery, AL
6. Alex Taylor, OT, Moncks Corner, SC
7. Akeem Davis, LB, Thomasville, NC
8. Victor Johnson, OT, North Augusta, SC
9. Jake Easter, QB, Pfafftown, NC
10. Dezmin Reed, LB, Atlanta, GA*

*junior college transfer

Points per game for ASU over the final sixgames of 2014. They had averaged just 17.3 in their first four games vs. FBS teams.

STAT CORNER

40.8

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	35.7 ppg	3	--
Rushing	241.8 ypg	2	--
Passing	219.8 ypg	7	--
Total	461.5 ypg	4	--
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	27.3 ppg	5	--
Rushing	152.3 ypg	2	--
Passing	195.5 ypg	4	--
Total	347.5 ypg	1	--
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-2	-0.17	7	--

OFFENSE Six games into last season, Appalachian State had one win and loads of excuses. The Mountaineers were in their first season on the FBS level, and with freshmen or sophomores filling 14 of the 22 spots in the starting lineup, there was youth everywhere. If the season had gone off the rails, it would have been easy to pinpoint why. But it didn't. Appalachian State closed the year winning six straight, thanks in large part to an offensive renaissance built around a sturdy running game. In the final six games, the Mountaineers' rushing average jumped by 99 yards per game.

Four of the five offensive linemen who powered that improvement return, led by senior center Jesse Chapman. The guards are Parker Collins and Colby Gossett, and right tackle Beau Nunn is also back. Davante Harris, who started the first five games a year ago, is penciled in at left tackle.

After rushing for 1,415 yards and earning a spot on the All-Sun Belt second team, running back Marcus Cox is back as well. According to coach Scott Satterfield, the junior won't have to shoulder as much of the load, as sophomore Terrence Upshaw and freshmen Jalin Moore and Josh Boyd are ready to contribute.

Sophomore quarterback Taylor Lamb, son of longtime Furman coach and current Mercer head man Bobby Lamb, will continue to pilot the offense after breaking the freshman passing record held by Mountaineers great Armanti Edwards. His top four receiving targets from last season are all back, meaning the offense that blossomed late last season should be able to keep its momentum going.

DEFENSE With 10 starters back, Appalachian State's defense should be up for whatever the Sun Belt throws at it.

Satterfield expects senior defensive end Ronald Blair — who racked up six sacks as a junior — to be the next Mountaineer to reach the NFL. The three-year starter leads a defensive front that's long on experience.

Junior linebacker John Law led the team in tackles last season. He'll be surrounded by proven talents such as inside linebacker Eric Boggs and outside linebackers Devan Stringer and Kennan Gilchrist.

Senior defensive back Doug Middleton picked off a team-high four passes last year and will anchor an experienced secondary. Corner Brandon Pinckney is a new starter, but Satterfield says he has full faith in the sophomore.

SPECIALISTS After averaging 40.7 yards per punt, junior Bentlee Critcher has a firm grip on a starting spot. Senior Zach Matics is expected to once again handle the kicking duties. Satterfield expects seniors Bobo Beathard and Simms McElfresh to join sophomore Isaiah Lewis on return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS The transition from FCS powerhouse to Sun Belt newcomer was likely a jarring one for Mountaineers fans who fondly recall the heady days of winning national titles and authoring an all-time great upset at Michigan. But this season should provide them with a pleasant taste of their new normal.

By finishing third in the Sun Belt last season, the Mountaineers showed they could compete. With loads of experience back and plenty of confidence banked from last year's strong finish, there's no reason to believe this season can't be even better.

Throw in the fact that the Mountaineers could now earn a bowl invite — they were barred from it last season — and have a schedule that features home games against league heavyweights UL-Lafayette, Arkansas State and longtime Southern Conference rival Georgia Southern, and life on the FBS level should begin to feel just right.



MARCUS COX

"They were as good as anyone in November and bring everybody back, so they're gonna be right there."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	7	**Malachi Jones (Sr.)**	6	Shaedon Meadors (So.)	
WR	81	**Bobo Beathard (Sr.)**	4	Jaylan Barbour (Fr.)	
WR	83	**Simms McElfresh (Sr.)**	2	Isaiah Lewis (So.)	
LT	73	Davante Harris (Sr.)	79	Owen Painter (Fr.)	
LG	75	**Parker Collins (Jr.)**	67	Shaq Counts (Sr.)	
C	60	**Jesse Chapman (Sr.)**	52	Tobias Edge-Campbell (Fr.)	
RG	70	**Colby Gossett (So.)**	76	Madison Malone (Fr.)	
RT	50	**Beau Nunn (So.)**	78	Chandler Greer (Fr.)	
TE	85	**Barrett Burns (Jr.)**	80	Hunter Nunn (So.)	
QB	11	**Taylor Lamb (So.)**	10	J.P. Caruso (Fr.)	
RB	14	**Marcus Cox (Jr.)**	20	Terrence Upshaw (So.)	

DEFENSE (10)

DE	49	**Ronald Blair (Sr.)**	36	**Olawale Dada (Jr.)**	
NT	72	**Tyson Fernandez (Jr.)**	99	Stephen Burns (Sr.)	
DE	40	Nathaniel Norwood (Jr.)	56	Thomas Bronson (Sr.)	
LB	6	**Kennan Gilchrist (Jr.)**	31	Rashaad Townes (Jr.)	
LB	45	**Eric Boggs (So.)**	46	Teh'Ron Fuller (Fr.)	
LB	88	**John Law (Jr.)**	43	D.J. Ward (Sr.)	
LB	11	**Devan Stringer (So.)**	13	Kevin Walton (Sr.)	
CB	27	**Latrell Gibbs (So.)**	29	Aaron Krah (Sr.)	
CB	18	Brandon Pinckney (So.)		Mondo Williams (Jr.)	
S	21	**Doug Middleton (Sr.)**	10	**A.J. Howard (So.)**	
S	3	Alex Gray (Jr.)	16	Treyon Garnett (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	59	Zach Matics (Sr.)	KR	81	Bobo Beathard (Sr.)
P	91	Bentlee Critcher (Jr.)	PR	81	Bobo Beathard (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Lamb, 295-181-2,381-9, 17 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Cox, 255 att., 1,415 yds., 19 TDs
Receiving: Simms McElfresh, 42 rec., 484 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: John Law, 91
Sacks: Ronald Blair, 6.0
Interceptions: Doug Middleton, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Appalachian State athletics/Allyson Lamb

ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES

National Forecast: 76
Sun Belt Prediction: 1

Head Coach: Blake Anderson
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 7-6 (1 year)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Walt Bell, Glen Elarbee
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Cauthen
Jonesboro, AR
Centennial Bank Stadium (30,406)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at USC
12 Missouri
19 Missouri State
26 at Toledo

OCTOBER
3 Idaho
13 at South Alabama
20 UL Lafayette
31 Georgia State

NOVEMBER
5 at Appalachian State
14 at UL Monroe
28 at New Mexico State

DECEMBER
5 Texas State

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Montana State	W	37-10
Sept.	6	at Tennessee	L	19-34
Sept.	13	at Miami	L	20-41
Sept.	20	Utah State	W	21-14
Oct.	4	UL Monroe	W	28-14
Oct.	11	at Georgia State	W	52-10
Oct.	21	at UL Lafayette	L	40-55
Nov.	1	at Idaho	W	44-28
Nov.	8	South Alabama	W	45-10
Nov.	15	Appalachian State	L	32-37
Nov.	20	at Texas State	L	27-45
Nov.	29	New Mexico State	W	68-35
Jan.	4	vs. Toledo #	L	44-63

#GoDaddy Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. D.J. Pearson, QB, Duluth, GA
2. Griffin Riggs, DE, Auburn, AL
3. Cameron Davis, OT, Bryant, AR
4. Darveon Brown, WR, Warren, AR
5. Tajhea Chambers, QB, Milledgeville, GA
6. Omar Bayless, WR, Laurel, MS
7. Cody Brown, S, Bellville, TX*
8. Dalton Ford, OL, Webb City, MO
9. Earl Harrison, RB, Memphis, TN
10. Jamal Jones, RB, Memphis, TN

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

The last time that ASU entered a season with the same head coach it had the year before. It's Year 2 of the Blake Anderson era.

2010

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	36.7 ppg	2	18
Rushing	216.4 ypg	5	25
Passing	260.1 ypg	4	39
Total	476.5 ypg	2	20
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	7	90
Rushing	205.2 ypg	7	103
Passing	216.0 ypg	6	44
Total	421.2 ypg	6	83
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+6	+0.46	3	33

OFFENSE Senior quarterback Fredi Knighten and eight other starters return after setting ASU records for points and total offense in their first season in Blake Anderson's fast-paced system. Speed makes Knighten dangerous on the move, and he was an accurate passer in his first year as a starter, completing 62 percent of his attempts and accounting for 4,000-plus yards of total offense.

Injuries cost senior running back Michael Gordon two games last season, yet he finished with 1,100 yards while averaging 6.9 yards per carry. Sophomore Johnston White was dependable in a backup role, but the Red Wolves missed Gordon's big-play ability when he was out. A freshman will have an opportunity to play his way into the rotation.

The top six receivers return, led by Tres Houston, J.D. McKissic and Dijon Paschal. One of the Sun Belt's most dynamic players, McKissic was hampered by injuries last fall after catching 185 passes in his first two seasons. Houston and Paschal are tall targets on the perimeter, while 6'5" tight end Darion Griswold provides versatility at his position.

The Red Wolves spent spring practice shuffling their offensive line, especially at the interior positions. ASU didn't run the ball effectively enough in short-yardage or goal-line situations to suit Anderson, who stressed a more physical approach in the spring.

DEFENSE ASU's defensive line deficiencies were exposed in the second half of the season. Opponents scored 28 rushing touchdowns over the final seven games, including seven by Toledo in the GoDaddy Bowl, while averaging 283 rushing yards during that span. The Red Wolves are counting on transfers Robert Mondie, Waylon Roberson and Jake Swalley to help sophomore Chuks Ota shore up the interior line. Mondie joined his brother Devin, a starting offensive lineman, at ASU when UAB dropped football. Roberson and Swalley are junior college transfers who also moved up the depth chart quickly in the spring. ASU has proven talent at end with senior Chris Stone and sophomore Ja'Von Rolland-Jones, who combined for 15.5 sacks last season.

Xavier Woodson, the Red Wolves' second-leading tackler last year with 95, moves into a leadership role at linebacker with the departure of All-Sun Belt linebacker Qushaun Lee.

While the secondary suffered significant losses, the Red Wolves return two safeties (Chris Humes and Charleston Girley) who were starters before suffering injuries early last season. Rocky Hayes could be among the league's best cornerbacks, and junior college transfers Cody Brown and Allen Sentimore will contribute at safety.

SPECIALISTS Extra points and field goals were an adventure for the Red Wolves, who missed eight PATs and made only 61 percent of their field-goal attempts. Luke Ferguson (8-of-15 last season) and several newcomers will compete for the job in the fall. Ferguson was more consistent as a punter, averaging 41 yards while placing 22 punts inside the 20-yard line. Blaise Taylor took over on punt returns as a true freshman, averaging 8.1 yards, and is one of several possibilities on kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Red Wolves' depth chart started to show the effects of four coaching changes in four seasons last fall. ASU was critically thin in key areas, starting with the defensive line, before a rash of season-ending injuries made matters worse. Still, there was enough talent on hand to pull out seven victories and make a fourth straight bowl trip. Anderson's second season starts with a difficult non-conference schedule, but ASU won't face defending Sun Belt champion Georgia Southern in conference play. While the Red Wolves should put up plenty of points, they will have to improve defensively to maximize their potential.


MICHAEL GORDON

"The QB is just OK, but they've got a lot of pieces around him and he doesn't have to play outside his comfort zone."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	23	**J.D. McKissic (Sr.)**	16	Tyler Trosin (Sr.)	
WR	15	**Tres Houston (Sr.)**	24	Blake Mack (So.)	
WR	84	**Dijon Paschal (So.)**	18	Booker Mays (Jr.)	
LT	79	**Jemar Clark (Jr.)**	70	Kyle Harris (Sr.)	
LG	71	Steven Stevens (Sr.)	78	Adam Whalen (So.)	
C	74	**Devin Modie (Jr.)**		Brandon Berg (Jr.)	
RG	77	Daniel Keith (So.)	62	Christian Beard (Fr.)	
RT	61	**Colton Jackson (Jr.)**		Joe Bacchus (Jr.)	
TE	19	**Darion Griswold (Sr.)**	82	Warren Leapheart (Jr.)	
QB	9	**Fredi Knighten (Sr.)**	13	James Tabary (Fr.)	
RB	34	**Michael Gordon (Sr.)**	30	Johnston White (So.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	42	**Chris Stone (Sr.)**	34	Carderious Dean (Sr.)	
NG	97	Chuks Ota (So.)		Waylon Roberson (Jr.)	
DT		Robert Mondie (Sr.)		Jake Swalley (Jr.)	
DE	37	**Ja'Von Rolland-Jones (So.)**	93	Chris Odom (Jr.)	
LB	55	**Xavier Woodson (Jr.)**	50	Austin Copeland (Sr.)	
LB	52	Quanterio Heath (Jr.)	40	Sterling Wright (Jr.)	
CB	3	Rocky Hayes (Sr.)	2	Nehemiah Wagner (So.)	
CB	1	Blaise Taylor (So.)	17	Jamaris Hart (So.)	
S	29	Chris Humes (Jr.)	12	Charles Grant (So.)	
S	8	Charleston Girley (Sr.)		Cody Brown (Jr.)	
S	27	**Money Hunter (Jr.)**	14	Allen Sentimore (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Luke Ferguson (Sr.)	KR	3	Rocky Hayes (Sr.)
P	15	Luke Ferguson (Sr.)	PR	1	Blaise Taylor (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Fredi Knighten, 432-269-3,277-7, 24 TDs
Rushing: Michael Gordon, 159 att., 1,100 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Tres Houston, 53 rec., 685 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Xavier Woodson, 95
Sacks: Ja'Von Rolland-Jones, 8.0
Interceptions: Money Hunter, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Arkansas State Athletics

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

National Forecast: 77
Sun Belt Prediction: 2

Head Coach: Willie Fritz
Record at School: 9-3 (1 year)
Career Record: 185-70-1 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Ruse
Defensive Coordinator: Jack Curtis
Statesboro, GA • Paulson Stadium (25,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at West Virginia
12 Western Michigan
19 The Citadel
26 at Idaho

OCTOBER
3 at UL Monroe
17 New Mexico State
22 at Appalachian State
29 Texas State

NOVEMBER
14 at Troy
21 at Georgia
28 South Alabama

DECEMBER
5 Georgia State

2014 RESULTS (9-3, 8-0)

Aug.	30	at NC State	L	23-24
Sept.	6	Savannah State	W	83-9
Sept.	13	at Georgia Tech	L	38-42
Sept.	20	at South Alabama	W	28-6
Sept.	25	Appalachian State	W	34-14
Oct.	4	at New Mexico State	W	36-28
Oct.	11	Idaho	W	47-24
Oct.	25	at Georgia State	W	69-31
Oct.	30	Troy	W	42-10
Nov.	8	at Texas State	W	28-25
Nov.	15	at Navy	L	19-52
Nov.	29	UL Monroe	W	22-16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Markeis Hallback, DB, Moore Haven, FL
2. Joshua Moon, S, Fairburn, GA
3. Jeremiah Culbreth, OT, Fairburn, Ga.
4. Christian Matthew, CB, Columbus, GA
5. J.B. Kouassi, DE, Norcross, GA
6. Logan Hunt, LB, Warrenton, GA
7. Jessie Liptrot, ATH, Neptune Beach, FL
8. Jay Bowdry, DB, Thomasville, GA
9. Obe Fortune, ATH, Alpharetta, GA
10. Jeremiah Theus, OL, Jacksonville, FL

STAT CORNER

1.000

Georgia Southern's all-time win percentage as a Sun Belt member. Granted, that's only one year, but 2014's 8–0 debut was magnificent.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	39.1 ppg	1	--
Rushing	381.1 ypg	1	--
Passing	107.2 ypg	11	--
Total	488.3 ypg	1	--
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	23.4 ppg	1	--
Rushing	153.7 ypg	3	--
Passing	234.4 ypg	9	--
Total	388.1 ypg	3	--
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+8	+0.67	3	--

OFFENSE Georgia Southern threw more often and more effectively in Willie Fritz's first season as head coach, incorporating some spread principles he brought from Sam Houston State into the more traditional triple-option the Eagles ran so effectively at the FCS level. But Fritz believes there's even more room for the passing game to grow in 2015 while maintaining dominance in the rushing attack, which generated 381.1 yards per game.

"We led the nation in rushing, but we were subpar as far as throwing the ball," Fritz said. "That's a point of emphasis for us."

Having a second year in Fritz's system should benefit junior quarterbacks Kevin Ellison, who ran for 1,096 yards, and Favian Upshaw, who played well when Ellison was sidelined with minor injuries. Junior running back Matt Breida also returns after averaging 8.7 yards per carry.

An overhaul on the offensive line, however, raises some questions. The Eagles return a potential all-conference anchor at left guard in Darien Foreman and added UAB transfer Roscoe Byrd at right guard. But they will have to replace five seniors who made their rushing success possible. Fritz is counting on newcomers and sophomores who played backup snaps last year to be more adept at pass protection, but he acknowledges that some offensive line positions won't be won until fall camp.

DEFENSE Georgia Southern led the Sun Belt in scoring defense (23.4 ppg) and was third in total defense (388.1 ypg), but Fritz wants the Eagles to generate more turnovers (20 last season).

"This will be my 23rd year as a head coach, and when we've been plus-1 or better in turnovers, we've won 91 percent of our games," Fritz said.

With 16 contributors returning from last season, the Eagles have enough depth to take another step defensively. They will, however, undoubtedly miss middle linebacker Edwin Jackson, who accounted for 100 total tackles, and four-year starter Deion Stanley at safety/nickel back.

Senior Deshawntee Gallon, who moves from a backup to starting role, and senior Antwione Williams should give the Eagles one of the league's better linebacking corps. They'll work behind a defensive line that returns nine contributors and its two most productive players in end Bernard Dawson and nose tackle Jay Ellison.

Georgia Southern gave up 234.4 passing yards per game last year and will need to play better on the back end, which is why Fritz signed a slew of defensive backs.

SPECIALISTS In an otherwise great year, this was a sore spot. Primary kicker Alex Hanks missed seven extra points and made just one of his last four field goals after starting 9-of-10. If his accuracy doesn't improve, the Eagles may look to junior Younghoe Koo, who made five field goals in 2013 but none last season. There's also room for improvement in the punting game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Georgia Southern's first year as an FBS member could hardly have gone better, as the Eagles went 8–0 in the Sun Belt and came within a couple plays of knocking off NC State and Georgia Tech. Don't count on the Eagles getting complacent either, as NCAA rules governing FCS-to-FBS transitions prevented them from playing in a bowl game.

"We deserved a chance to go," Foreman says. "We felt like it wasn't fair, but that's a big motivation for us this offseason." Georgia Southern should only get more potent as Fritz molds and recruits players who fit his offense. If the defense plays at the same level or improves, the Eagles could easily repeat as conference champs.


MATT BREIDA

"They had (five) seniors on the O- line, I don't think you just snap your fingers at this level and replace guys like that."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	31	Ryan Longoria (Jr.)	83	Keigan Williams (Jr.)	
WR	**12**	**BJ Johnson (Sr.)**	81	Myles Campbell (So.)	
WR	23	Derek Keaton (Sr.)	85	Montay Crockett (Jr.)	
LT	62	Ryan Northrup (Fr.)	65	Tristan Hill (Fr.)	
LG	**63**	**Darien Foreman (Sr.)**	61	Trayvon Williams (Fr.)	
C	60	Andy Kwon (Jr.)	68	Christian Williams (Fr.)	
RG	73	Maurice Hunt (Sr.)	56	Roscoe Byrd (Sr.)	
RT	77	Tommy Boynton (So.)	71	Max Magana (Jr.)	
TE	33	James Dean (Sr.)	96	Jeff Ward (Sr.)	
QB	**4**	**Kevin Ellison (Jr.)**	13	Favian Upshaw (Jr.)	
RB	**36**	**Matt Breida (Jr.)**	1	Alfred Ramsby (So.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**56**	**Bernard Dawson (Jr.)**	40	Ryan George (So.)	
DT	51	Jamal Johnson (Jr.)	92	Jonathan Battle, Jr. (Sr.)	
NT	**99**	**Jay Ellison (Jr.)**	90	Darrius Sapp (So.)	
DE	44	Quaun Daniels (Sr.)	**54**	**Lennie Richardson (Sr.)**	
LB	**37**	**Antwione Williams (Sr.)**	34	Chris DeLaRosa (So.)	
LB	27	Deshawntee Gallon (Sr.)	18	Ken Butler, Jr. (Jr.)	
CB	5	Darius Jones (Jr.)	39	Rayquan Sam (Sr.)	
CB	19	Caleb Williams (Sr.)	6	Darrius White (Sr.)	
S	**16**	**Antonio Glover (Sr.)**	10	Vegas Harley (Jr.)	
S	**7**	**Matt Dobson (Sr.)**	2	Steve Williams (Sr.)	
NB	25	Robert Brice II (Jr.)	14	Tay Hicklin (Sr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	9	Younghoe Koo (Jr.)	**KR**	23	Derek Keaton (Sr.)
P	49	Ryan Nowicki (Sr.)	**PR**	85	Montay Crockett (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kevin Ellison, 128-71-1,001-3, 5 TDs
Rushing: Matt Breida, 171 att., 1,485 yds., 17 TDs
Receiving: BJ Johnson, 23 rec., 312 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Antwione Williams, 66
Sacks: Ryan George, 3.5
Interceptions: Matt Dobson, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Georgia Southern Athletics

GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS

National Forecast: 126
Sun Belt Prediction: 11

Head Coach: Trent Miles
Record at School: 1-23 (2 years)
Career Record: 21-59 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Jagodzinski
Defensive Coordinator: Jesse Minter
Atlanta, GA • Georgia Dome (28,155)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Charlotte
12 at New Mexico State
19 at Oregon

OCTOBER
3 Liberty
10 Appalachian State
17 at Ball State
31 at Arkansas State

NOVEMBER
7 UL Lafayette
14 at Texas State
21 South Alabama
27 Troy

DECEMBER
5 at Georgia Southern

2014 RESULTS (1-11, 0-8

Aug.	27	Abilene Christian	W	38-37
Sept.	6	New Mexico State	L	31-34
Sept.	13	Air Force	L	38-48
Sept.	20	at Washington	L	14-45
Oct.	4	at UL Lafayette	L	31-34
Oct.	11	Arkansas State	L	10-52
Oct.	18	at South Alabama	L	27-30
Oct.	25	Georgia Southern	L	31-69
Nov.	1	at Appalachian State	L	0-44
Nov.	8	at Troy	L	21-45
Nov.	22	at Clemson	L	0-28
Nov.	29	Texas State	L	31-54

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chase Middleton, LB, Atlanta, GA
2. Aaron Winchester, QB, Atlanta, GA
3. Melliek Jackson, S, Miami, FL
4. Anterio Bateman, RB, Gardena, CA*
5. Penny Hart, ATH, Atlanta, GA
6. Kaleb Ringer, LB, Claymont, OH*
7. Charlie Patrick, LB, Atlanta, GA
8. Tyler Simonsen, OT, Redlands, CA*
9. Julien Laurent, DT, Toronto, ON*
10. Marquan Greene, WR, Moultrie, GA

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

GSU's win percentage against FBS opponents since joining FBS in 2013. The Panthers are 0–20 vs. FBS, 1–3 vs. FCS in that span.

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2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	22.7 ppg	8	100
Rushing	96.3 ypg	10	120
Passing	279.0 ypg	2	25
Total	375.3 ypg	9	85
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	43.3 ppg	11	125
Rushing	303.4 ypg	10	124
Passing	193.7 ypg	3	19
Total	497.1 ypg	11	116
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-22	-1.83	11	125

OFFENSE There weren't many things Georgia State did reliably well last season except pass the ball, which allowed the Panthers to be competitive more often than they had been during a winless 2013. The good news is most of the key pieces that made Georgia State's passing game respectable return with what should be a deeper and more talented supporting cast.

But the Panthers still have a long way to go, and it's unclear how much a bevy of new faces up front and at tailback will help a rushing attack that averaged just 3.0 yards per carry and 96.3 yards per game, which ranked next-to-last in the Sun Belt. "We still have some holes we can't fill for a couple years, but we're a lot closer," coach Trent Miles says.

Optimism starts with 6'1" senior quarterback Nick Arbuckle, a former junior college transfer who completed 60.4 percent of his passes and threw for 3,283 yards with 23 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. "He's got good touch, and he usually knows where to go with it," Miles says. "He tried to force some plays, which happens when you're struggling as a team. But he's relaxed a lot more, and I'm looking for a big year."

The Panthers should benefit from the return of tailback Kyler Neal, who averaged 5.2 yards per carry in four games before getting injured, and most of a receiving corps led by Donovan Harden, who had 60 catches for 885 yards last season. "He's a stud," Miles says. "That's one of our deeper positions."

DEFENSE Miles has a pretty simple assessment of Georgia State's defense in 2014: "Horrible." The Panthers allowed 303.4 rushing yards per game, had just 12 sacks, gave up 51.9 percent of third-down conversions and forced a paltry eight turnovers. Once again, though, there's no quick fix for a roster that was bereft of talent, depth and size when Miles took over aside from recruiting and internal growth, particularly in the weight room.

With some new personnel, there could be big changes on the defensive line. Julien Laurent, a 6'4", 325-pound Canadian, is poised to make a big impact after a year at New Mexico Military Institute. Georgia State is hoping a mix of junior college transfers, UAB transfer Alonzo McGee and players such as linebackers Michael Shaw and Niemus Bryant will supplement a couple solid returning pieces on the front seven. Linebacker Joe Peterson is a four-year starter and an All-Sun Belt selection, and sophomore Trey Payne had 88 tackles last season.

Miles says the Panthers are "deeper than we've ever been" in the secondary with the addition of junior college safety Cloves Campbell and UAB transfer Bobby Baker, who played well for the Blazers before suffering an early season injury. Even if the Panthers' front-line personnel is better, injuries and depth are going to be a major concern.

SPECIALISTS Senior Wil Lutz didn't get many scoring opportunities last season but made the most of them. He hit on 7-of-8 field goals and is 15-of-16 in his career inside of 40 yards. He will also handle punting duties after splitting time there last season. Miles hopes for more big plays out of the return game from Harden and new slot receiver Kameron Myers, who can really fly.

FINAL ANALYSIS This program has had a rough transition from FCS to FBS, and it's going to take more time to turn it around. Still, the Panthers will have around 80 scholarship players this year, up from the mid-60s last season, and return all but four contributors. Though there are still major questions about physicality and size on both lines of scrimmage, the skill level is improving at nearly every position, which should be enough to see incremental strides in Miles' third season.


NICK ARBUCKLE

"Their staff has done a solid job, but it's just not a fair fight. Once you got into their depth chart it was like playing walk-ons."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	**Donovan Harden (Sr.)**	15	Todd Boyd (So.)	
WR	19	**Robert Davis (Jr.)**	17	Glenn Smith (So.)	
WR	81	Hyiakki Height (Sr.)	80	Kameron Myers (Jr.)	
LT	75	Michael Ivory (Jr.)	77	Tyler Simonsen (Jr.)	
LG	65	**Taylor Evans (Sr.)**	64	Akil Hawkins (Jr.)	
C	68	Kelepi Folau (Sr.)	72	Gabe Mobley (Fr.)	
RG	56	**Alex Stoehr (So.)**	58	Jah-Mai Davidson (Jr.)	
RT	78	Dom Roldan (Jr.)	70	Steve Wolgamott (Sr.)	
TE	8	**Joel Ruiz (Sr.)**	84	Bill Teknipp (So.)	
QB	4	**Nick Arbuckle (Sr.)**	12	Emiere Scaife (Fr.)	
RB	25	Kyler Neal (So.)	23	Kendrick Dorn (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (10)

DE	91	Julien Laurent (So.)	52	**Tevin Jones (Jr.)**	
NG	92	Dequeszman Kelley (So.)	97	**Jalen Lawrence (Jr.)**	
DE	5	Mackendy Cheridor (So.)	85	**Shawayne Lawrence (Jr.)**	
LB	44	Michael Shaw (Fr.)	34	Niemus Bryant (Fr.)	
LB	6	**Joseph Peterson (Sr.)**	32	Malik Ricks (So.)	
LB	4	Alonzo McGee (Jr.)	42	**Trey Payne (So.)**	
LB	11	Kaleb Ringer (Jr.)		Chase Middleton (Fr.)	
CB	27	**Bruce Dukes (Sr.)**	7	Robert Dowling (Jr.)	
CB	10	**Chandon Sullivan (So.)**	24	**Marcus Caffey (Sr.)**	
S	3	**Tarris Batiste (Sr.)**	1	**Nate Simon (Sr.)**	
S	2	Bobby Baker (Sr.)	14	Cloves Campbell (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Wil Lutz (Sr.)	KR	80	Kameron Myers (Jr.)
P	96	Wil Lutz (Sr.)	PR	9	Donovan Harden (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Arbuckle, 429-259-3,283-17, 23 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Caffey, 93 att., 354 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Donovan Harden, 60 rec., 885 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Joseph Peterson, 97
Sacks: Joseph Peterson, 3.0
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Georgia State Athletics

IDAHO VANDALS

National Forecast: 125
Sun Belt Prediction: 10

Head Coach: Paul Petrino
Record at School: 2-21 (2 years)
Career Record: 2-21 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kris Cinkovich
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Breske
Moscow, ID • Kibbie Dome (16,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
3 Ohio
12 at USC
19 Wofford
26 Georgia Southern

OCTOBER
3 at Arkansas State
17 at Troy
24 UL Monroe
31 at New Mexico State

NOVEMBER
7 at South Alabama
14 Appalachian State
21 at Auburn
28 Texas State

2014 RESULTS (1-10, 1-7)

Sept.	6	at UL Monroe	L	31-38
Sept.	13	Western Michigan	L	33-45
Sept.	20	at Ohio	L	24-36
Sept.	27	South Alabama	L	10-34
Oct.	4	at Texas State	L	30-35
Oct.	11	at Georgia Southern	L	24-47
Oct.	18	New Mexico State	W	29-17
Nov.	1	Arkansas State	L	28-44
Nov.	8	at San Diego State	L	21-35
Nov.	15	Troy	L	17-34
Nov.	29	at Appalachian State	L	28-45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kareem Coles, QB, San Diego, CA
2. Denzal Brantley, RB, Los Alamitos, CA
3. Trenton McGhee, S, Jacksonville, FL
4. Zion Dixon, OL, Coeur d'Alene, ID
5. Tanner Mauseth, OL, Pocatello, ID
6. Jante Boston, WR, Jacksonville, FL
7. Calvary Pugh, RB, West Palm Beach, FL
8. Mike Linehan, LB, Highland Park, TX
9. Darius Liles, LB, Visalia, CA
10. Jack Bamis, RB, Spokane, WA

STAT CORNER

+16.3

Improvement in Idaho's per-game scoring margin from 2013 to 2014. Vandals were still minus-12.3 but took steps forward.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	25.0 ppg	6	88
Rushing	141.9 ypg	9	93
Passing	275.5 ypg	3	30
Total	417.5 ypg	6	53
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	37.3 ppg	9	112
Rushing	246.2 ypg	9	119
Passing	216.5 ypg	8	46
Total	462.7 ypg	9	112
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-11	-1.00	9	114

OFFENSE Coach Paul Petrino welcomes back the top rusher and passer from an offense that averaged 25 points and 417.5 yards per game, and the third-year coach is expecting even better numbers this season.

Quarterback Matt Linehan had his ups and downs during his redshirt freshman season when he started all 11 games and completed 58.3 percent of his passes for 2,540 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also threw 18 interceptions, a number that will need to dwindle if the Vandals are to show the improvement Petrino predicts.

The return of wide receiver Dezmon Epps should help the passing game. Epps was Idaho's leading receiver in 2013 when he caught 79 passes for 980 yards and four touchdowns. He was kicked off the team last summer for an off-the-field incident and didn't play last season. The senior received a second chance from Petrino for staying in good academic standing. Between Epps and junior tight end Deon Watson (37 catches in 2014), Linehan has two athletic playmakers at his disposal.

Senior running back Elijhaa Penny led Idaho with 589 yards and 12 touchdowns, and the 6'2", 254-pound bruiser is expected to spearhead the ground game again. Sophomore Aaron Duckworth is the speedier, change-of-pace back.

The biggest question comes up front. Petrino must replace four-year starter Mike Marboe at center and rebuild a unit that yielded 41 sacks. Junior Steven Matlock assumes the center spot and will anchor a young unit that has only one senior starter — guard Dallas Sandberg. If the O-line jells and can protect Linehan, Idaho's offense should improve.

DEFENSE After being one of the worst FBS defenses last year, the Vandals are changing to a 3-4 scheme designed to get more speed on the field. Idaho allowed 462.7 yards and 37.3 points per game, prompting Petrino to bring in five defensive backs in the offseason to help fortify the pass defense.

Senior cornerback Jayshawn Jordan (62 tackles) and junior safety Russell Siavii (52 tackles) are the top defensive backs returning, but competition will be fierce in the back end.

End Quinton Bradley (six sacks) and tackle Ryan Edwards (19 tackles) are the best up front. Linebacker Marc Millan led the team with 102 tackles last season, and several other contributors are back at that spot, but Petrino is very high on grayshirt Kaden Elliss, the son of former NFL Pro Bowler Luther Elliss.

Bottom line: For this unit to improve, it will have to generate more than the 18 sacks and 17 takeaways it did last season.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game is solid with junior Austin Rehkow, who handles the placekicking and punting duties. Rehkow is accurate from inside 40 yards but inconsistent from long range. As a punter, he's averaged better than 47 yards on 119 career punts. The return of Epps solidifies the return teams, which haven't produced a touchdown of any kind since 2012.

FINAL ANALYSIS Perhaps the best news since the end of last season was the NCAA lifting a bowl ban and sanctions limiting practice time because of poor APR scores. The Vandals need every bit of practice to try to become competitive and put together their first winning season since 2009.

The offense should be improved now that Linehan has a year under his belt and some proven playmakers. The real key for Idaho will be on defense. In Idaho's 10 losses last season, it gave up 34 or more points. If the Vandals can slow down the opposition and give their offense a chance, this team can make a move in the Sun Belt.



MARC MILLAN

"I was a surprised they ended up 1-10 because they ran the ball pretty well. I thought they would win some games."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Dezmon Epps (Sr.)	88	Callen Hightower (Jr.)
WR	2	David Ungerer (So.)	7	Jermaine Johnson (Sr.)
WR	8	Jacob Sannon (Jr.)	3	Rueben Mwehla (So.)
LT	**76**	**Jordan Rose (So.)**	60	Andrew Erbes (Jr.)
LG	**55**	**Dallas Sandberg (Sr.)**	72	Patrick Johnson (Fr.)
C	**61**	**Steven Matlock (Jr.)**	60	Andrew Erbes (Jr.)
RG	69	Kato Fawkes (Jr.)	63	Calvin White (Jr.)
RT	**67**	**Mason Woods (Jr.)**	79	Devin Wiltz (Jr.)
TE	**83**	**Deon Watson (Jr.)**	13	Buck Cowan (Jr.)
QB	**10**	**Matt Linehan (So.)**	14	Jake Luton (Fr.)
RB	6	Elijhaa Penny (Sr.)	29	Aaron Duckworth (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	44	Tueni Lupeamanu (Jr.)	90	Zach Cable (So.)
NT	**55**	**Ryan Edwards (Sr.)**	15	Glen Antoine (Jr.)
DE	**43**	**Quinton Bradley (Sr.)**	92	Kaylyn Ayers (Jr.)
BK	22	Leonard Hazewood (Jr.)	13	Kevin Shelton (So.)
OLB	16	Chris Edwards (Sr.)	8	Kaden Elliss (Fr.)
MLB	10	Broc Westlake (Sr.)	33	Tony Lashley (So.)
OLB	**23**	**Marc Millan (Sr.)**	14	Armond Hawkins (So.)
CB	6	Kendrick Trotter (Jr.)	1	Isaiah Taylor (Jr.)
CB	**4**	**Jayshawn Jordan (Sr.)**	36	Elijah Williams (Fr.)
S	21	Jordan Grabski (So.)	27	Jordan Frysinger (Sr.)
S	11	Russell Siavii (Jr.)	25	Desmond Banks (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	5	Austin Rehkow (Jr.)	KR	1	Dezmon Epps (Sr.)
P	5	Austin Rehkow (Jr.)	PR	1	Dezmon Epps (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Linehan, 379-221-2,540-18, 11 TDs
Rushing: Elijhaa Penny, 139 att., 589 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Deon Watson, 37 rec., 343 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Marc Millan, 102
Sacks: Quinton Bradley, 6.0
Interceptions: Three players tied with 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Idaho Athletics

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

National Forecast: 124
Sun Belt Prediction: 9

Head Coach: Doug Martin
Record at School: 4-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 33-73 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Martin
Defensive Coordinator: Zane Vance
Las Cruces, NM
Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Florida	
12	Georgia State	
19	UTEP	
OCTOBER		
3	at New Mexico	
10	at Ole Miss	
17	at Georgia Southern	
24	Troy	
31	Idaho	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Texas State	
21	at UL Lafayette	
28	Arkansas State	
DECEMBER		
5	at UL Monroe	

2014 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug.	28	Cal Poly	W	28-10
Sept.	6	at Georgia State	W	34-31
Sept.	13	at UTEP	L	24-42
Sept.	20	New Mexico	L	35-38
Sept.	27	at LSU	L	7-63
Oct.	4	Georgia Southern	L	28-36
Oct.	11	at Troy	L	24-41
Oct.	18	at Idaho	L	17-29
Nov.	1	Texas State	L	29-37
Nov.	8	UL Lafayette	L	16-44
Nov.	22	UL Monroe	L	17-30
Nov.	29	at Arkansas State	L	35-68

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Montrice Johns, TE, San Diego, CA
2. Javahn Ferguson, LB, Baton Rouge, LA
3. Parker Davidson, K, Plano, TX
4. Jassavia Reese, DE, Tyler, TX
5. Terrill Hanks, LB, Miami, FL
6. Brandyn Leonard, RB, Phoenix, AZ
7. Isaiah McIntyre, WR, Las Cruces, NM
8. O.J. Clark, WR, Wichita Falls, TX
9. Christian Gibson, ATH, Dallas, TX
10. Derek Watson, DE, Denton, TX

Number of times New Mexico State gave up at least 300 yards rushing in a game in 2014. The Aggies allowed 400-plus three times.

STAT CORNER

7

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	24.5 ppg	7	92
Rushing	179.3 ypg	6	50
Passing	241.6 ypg	5	54
Total	420.9 ypg	5	49
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	39.1 ppg	10	118
Rushing	309.9 ypg	11	125
Passing	174.5 ypg	1	6
Total	484.4 ypg	10	113
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-13	-1.08	10	116

OFFENSE The Aggies moved to an up-tempo, quick-passing game under offensive coordinator Gregg Brandon last season, and while it wasn't a consistent success, it was an identity — something the program has sorely lacked in recent years.

Brandon is gone (he replaced Bob Stitt as head coach at Colorado School of Mines), but New Mexico State returns the majority of an offensive roster that began to figure it out last year.

Sophomore running back Larry Rose III amassed 1,102 yards (on a healthy 5.9-yard average) in his rookie season and will be the primary rusher in the single-back offense. Junior Teldrick Morgan will be the top option in the passing game and is looking to build on a breakout season.

But the effort to find the man to take the helm of the offense is a battle that will likely play out deep into fall camp. Tyler Rogers held the position last season and at times looked like he was the man for the job. But Rogers' 23-interception season kept the competition open, and South Florida product Nick Jeanty closed the gap in spring camp. Sophomore Andrew Allen is also part of the fray.

Whichever quarterback wins the job will be playing behind one of the better offensive lines in the Sun Belt. The Aggies lose linchpin center Valerian Ume-Ezeoke to graduation, but guard Isaiah Folasa-Lutui and tackle Houston Clemente are a tremendous left side on a unit that allowed only 10 sacks last season.

DEFENSE While the NMSU offense found a system that worked in 2014, the Aggie defense will enter 2015 in flux. The '14 unit was young and small, and subsequently one of the worst defenses in the country. The Aggies had the nation's sixth-best passing defense in terms of yards per game last year, but that's because teams didn't need to throw it against NMSU. The Aggies were dead last nationally in rushing yards against, allowing 309.9 per game.

Size on the front seven is a major issue, as starting defensive linemen Kalei Auelua and Stody Bradley both played last year at about 240 pounds. The Aggies return only three sacks from 2014.

The vast majority of the defensive roster returns in 2015, and new coordinator Zane Vance is hoping that a year in the weight room will spark an improvement on the field.

Despite the struggles of the Aggies defense in 2014, there were positives to be gleaned from the secondary and linebacking corps. Free safety Kawe Johnson was a diminutive wrecking ball, and linebacker Rodney Butler's 7.5 tackles for a loss were impressive, considering how easy it was for opponents to get out of their own backfield.

Scheme will play a major factor in the Aggies' effort to turn around their defense. Vance will use more zone blitzes in an effort to mask the Aggies' lack of size with deception and frenetic play.

SPECIALISTS The Aggies' special teams last year were terrible. Morgan is a threat on returns, but the lack of team depth made itself known on special teams, as the blocking was never there to break a return for a touchdown. Another year of experience for special teamers could bring improvement — and there's nowhere to go but up.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Aggies started to figure it out last year, and if the offense continues to progress, they'll be able to stay competitive in conference games. If they are to be successful, the defense will need to make a big leap — a scheme change might facilitate that improvement. Games against UTEP and New Mexico will be measuring sticks for the program and the progress it's made.



RODNEY BUTLER

"Their system is based on going up-tempo and trying to stretch you horizontally to set up the inside run."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	19	**Teldrick Morgan (Jr.)**	88	Clayton Granch (Jr.)	
WR	5	Tyrian Taylor (Jr.)	11	Jordan Bergstrom (Sr.)	
WR	2	Greg Hogan (So.)	18	Tymon Locklin (Fr.)	
LT	77	**Houston Clemente (Sr.)**	72	Peter Foreman (Jr.)	
LG	62	**Isaiah Folasa-Lutui (Sr.)**	54	Spencer Fa'atoalia (Fr.)	
C	67	Anthony McMeans (So.)	74	Jamin Smith (So.)	
RG	51	**Thomas McGwire (So.)**	50	Abram Holland (Jr.)	
RT	58	Dezmand Candelaria (So.)	70	Andy Cunningham (Sr.)	
QB	18	**Tyler Rogers (Jr.)**	1	Nick Jeanty (So.)	
HB	8	Andrew Allen (So.)	6	Josh Bowen (Sr.)	
TB	12	**Larry Rose III (So.)**	22	Xavier Hall (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (10)

DE	48	**Kalei Auelua (Jr.)**	95	**Stody Bradley (So.)**	
DT	67	Kourtland Busby (So.)	93	Drew James (Jr.)	
DT	98	Josh Gibbs (Sr.)	56	Matt Ramando (Sr.)	
DE	99	Stephen Meredith (Sr.)	59	**Brandon Agomuo (So.)**	
WLB	53	**Rodney Butler (Jr.)**	32	Dalton Rocha (So.)	
MLB	3	**Derek Ibekwe (So.)**	40	Robert Wagner (Jr.)	
SLB	31	**Dalton Herrington (So.)**	44	Will Clement (So.)	
CB	29	**Lewis Hill (Sr.)**	10	Kedeem Thomas-Davis (Sr.)	
CB	4	**Winston Rose (Sr.)**	23	Jerrion Burton (So.)	
SS	14	**Jalen Wright (So.)**	35	Malik Demby (So.)	
FS	16	**Kawe Johnson (Jr.)**	1	Jacob Nwangwa (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Alex Louthan (Sr.)	KR	19	Teldrick Morgan (Jr.)
P		Parker Davidson (Fr.)	PR	19	Teldrick Morgan (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Rogers, 436-268-2,779-23, 19 TDs
Rushing: Larry Rose III, 186 att., 1,102 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Teldrick Morgan, 75 rec., 903 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Rodney Butler, 119
Sacks: Stephen Meredith, 2.0
Interceptions: Five players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

New Mexico State Athletics

SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

National Forecast: 108
Sun Belt Prediction: 6

Head Coach: Joey Jones
Record at School: 37-28 (6 years)
Career Record: 40-35 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bryant Vincent
Defensive Coordinator: Travis Pearson
Mobile, AL • Ladd-Peebles Stadium (33,471)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 Gardner Webb
12 at Nebraska
19 at San Diego State
26 NC State

OCTOBER
3 at Troy
13 Arkansas State
24 at Texas State

NOVEMBER
7 Idaho
12 UL Lafayette
21 at Georgia State
28 at Georgia Southern

DECEMBER
5 Appalachian State

2014 RESULTS (6-7, 5-3)

Sept.	6	at Kent State	W	23-13
Sept.	13	Mississippi State	L	3-35
Sept.	20	Georgia Southern	L	6-28
Sept.	27	at Idaho	W	34-10
Oct.	4	at Appalachian State	W	47-21
Oct.	18	Georgia State	W	30-27
Oct.	24	Troy	W	27-13
Nov.	1	at UL Lafayette	L	9-19
Nov.	8	at Arkansas State	L	10-45
Nov.	15	Texas State	W	24-20
Nov.	22	at South Carolina	L	12-37
Nov.	28	Navy	L	40-42
Dec.	20	vs. Bowling Green #	L	28-33

#Camellia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jalen Thompson, CB, Mobile, AL
2. Tavon Cox, LB, Kissimmee, FL
3. Troy Thingstad, OL, Mobile, AL
4. Ryan Alexander, OL, Hicksville, NY
5. Dami Ayoola, RB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
6. Nigel Lawrence, S, Smiths Station, AL
7. Tyrone Williams, WR, Kiln, MS*
8. Curtis Williams, OL, Miami, FL*
9. JarMarkus Sims, LB, Dothan, AL
10. Quinton Lane, CB, Ackerman, MS

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

7

UAB transfers signed by the Jaguars following the shuttering of the Blazer program. Eight if you include the offensive coordinator.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	22.5 ppg	9	102
Rushing	179.0 ypg	7	51
Passing	197.0 ypg	9	94
Total	376.0 ypg	8	84
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	26.4 ppg	4	59
Rushing	186.1 ypg	5	87
Passing	212.8 ypg	6	40
Total	398.9 ypg	4	65
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-7	-0.54	8	105

OFFENSE To help restock an offense that returns only three starters, South Alabama snatched up instantly eligible UAB players after that program disbanded. And as a bonus, UAB offensive coordinator Bryant Vincent, a former USA quarterbacks coach, followed some of his players to Mobile to call plays for the Jaguars.

Quarterback Cody Clements, slot receiver D.J. Vinson and guard Cameron Blankenship, all UAB transfers, should start immediately. Clements, who sat out spring practice due to an injury, passed for 2,227 yards and 14 TDs last season. Vinson, an all-purpose threat, rushed for 670 yards at running back at UAB, but his services are needed more as a receiver at USA.

Blankenship is already among USA's top linemen, and more UAB transfers could contribute or even start.

"Not only are they good players, but they have been in the system we're running because of (Vincent) coming here," USA coach Joey Jones says. "The learning curve is good for them, and they could be a good plus for our offense."

Running back should be strong, as the returning duo of Terrance Timmons (403 yards) and Xavier Johnson (438 yards) is supplemented by junior college All-American Tyreis Thomas.

Right tackle Chris May is a returning anchor on the offensive line, but there are otherwise experience and depth concerns up front. Similarly, the wide receiving corps must develop role players into standouts.

DEFENSE USA's defense returns only two starters in safeties Roman Buchanan (74 tackles) and Antonio Carter (54 tackles). And six USA defensive players who earned some type of All-Sun Belt honors last season have graduated.

The secondary could be solid, but only if two cornerbacks and a nickel spot can be solidified. E.J. May should fill one of the cornerback roles well, but freshmen and junior college transfers will take turns trying to fill the rest. Texas Tech transfer Blake Dees and UAB transfer Kalen Jackson may be the best options at linebacker. Both have talent.

Defensive end Jimmie Gipson returns as a proven edge rusher after recording 6.5 tackles for a loss and a team-high seven QB hurries last season. But questions are stacked high up front, especially in the interior line, where Tre Alford and Caleb Butler, both backups as freshmen, enter the season as the best options amid an inexperienced group.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Aleem Sunanon and punter Brandon McKee are both back, providing a little relief for a roster with plenty of unknowns. Sunanon is the Sun Belt's most accurate returning placekicker, making 15-of-18 field goals last season. Filling the kick returner and punt returner roles may be trial and error early on.

FINAL ANALYSIS The young USA program broke through last season with its first bowl appearance, but its evolution takes a curious turn with the instant influx of UAB transfers. Quick fixes will impact what would have otherwise been a rebuilding year. But Jones knows talent alone will not win games. "This will be a different year than we've had. We've lost 55 players (to graduation) over the last two years," Jones says. "Some of our veteran guys are not here anymore. We probably have more talent now. But with so many new guys, we have to mold this thing together pretty quickly."

Three straight September non-conference games — against Nebraska, San Diego State and NC State — could challenge a team lacking chemistry. Eight straight Sun Belt games follow to finish the year. If the Jaguars have any chance at snagging another bowl bid, they'll have to make some noise in the league race again.


JIMMIE GIPSON

"The UAB thing going south worked out pretty well for them. They ended up with a bunch of those guys."
– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	1	Tyrone Williams (So.)	15	Cameron Broadnax (Jr.)	
WR	8	D.J. Vinson (Sr.)	3	Chris Lewis (Jr.)	
WR	**18**	**Danny Woodson II (Sr.)**	14	Claude Garrett (Sr.)	
LT	51	Daniel Aust (So.)	69	John Dombrowski (Jr.)	
LG	65	Harrison Louden (So.)	75	Clay Machen (Jr.)	
C	**66**	**Joseph Scelfo (Jr.)**	72	Lee Dufour (So.)	
RG	71	Cameron Blankenship (Sr.)	74	Steven Foster (Jr.)	
RT	**55**	**Chris May (Sr.)**	57	Noah Fisher (Fr.)	
TE	10	Braedon Bowman (Sr.)	25	Gerald Everett (Jr.)	
QB	7	Cody Clements (Sr.)	6	Hunter Vaughn (Jr.)	
RB	2	Terrance Timmons (Sr.)	28	Xavier Johnson (So.)	

DEFENSE (2)

DE	40	Jimmie Gipson (Sr.)	48	Jaylan Daniels (So.)	
NT	78	Tre Alford (So.)	94	Dondre Chanet (Sr.)	
DT	29	Caleb Butler (So.)	55	DeMarion Harper (Sr.)	
DE	52	Akeem Lewis (Sr.)	28	Chason Milner (Fr.)	
SLB	49	Demarius Rancifer (Sr.)	20	Kalen Jackson (Jr.)	
MLB	25	Blake Dees (Sr.)	59	Andrew Philon (Sr.)	
CB	31	Margo Reed (Jr.)	13	Quinton Dent (Jr.)	
CB	15	E.J. May (Sr.)	2	Quinton Lane (Jr.)	
SS	**23**	**Roman Buchanan (Jr.)**	26	Antonio London (So.)	
FS	10	Terrance Slaughter (Sr.)	**14**	**Antonio Carter (Sr.)**	
N	9	Jeremy Reaves (So.)	4	Malcolm Buggs (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Aleem Sunanon (Jr.)	KR	17	Tony Ray Parnell (Jr.)
P	39	Brandon McKee (Jr.)	PR	14	Claude Garrett (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Hunter Vaughn, 59-38-342-6, 1 TD
Rushing: Xavier Johnson, 81 att., 438 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Danny Woodson II, 30 rec., 382 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Roman Buchanan, 74
Sacks: Jimmie Gipson III, 3.0
Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Bobby McDuffie /South Alabama Athletics

TEXAS STATE BOBCATS

National Forecast: 93
Sun Belt Prediction: 5

Head Coach: Dennis Franchione
Record at School: 36-34 (6 years)
Career Record: 210-126-2 (29 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Jeff Conway, Mike Schultz
Defensive Coordinator: John Thompson
San Marcos, TX • Bobcat Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Florida State
12 Prairie View A&M
19 Southern Miss
26 at Houston

OCTOBER
10 at UL Lafayette
24 South Alabama
29 at Georgia Southern

NOVEMBER
7 New Mexico State
14 Georgia State
19 UL Monroe
28 at Idaho

DECEMBER
5 at Arkansas State

2014 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3)

Aug.	30	Arkansas-Pine Bluff		W	65-0
Sept.	13	Navy		L	21-35
Sept.	20	at Illinois		L	35-42
Sept.	27	at Tulsa	(ot)	W	37-34
Oct.	4	Idaho		W	35-30
Oct.	14	UL Lafayette		L	10-34
Oct.	25	at UL Monroe		W	22-18
Nov.	1	at New Mexico State		W	37-29
Nov.	8	Georgia Southern		L	25-28
Nov.	15	at South Alabama		L	20-24
Nov.	20	Arkansas State		W	45-27
Nov.	29	at Georgia State		W	54-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kwamane Bowens, WR, Virginia Beach, VA*
2. Justin Gamble, WR, Round Rock, TX
3. Chris French, TE, San Clemente, CA
4. Javier Edwards, DT, Houston, TX
5. Bo Anderson, LB, Coppell, TX
6. L.G. Williams, QB, Cibolo, TX
7. Bralon Hutchison, ATH, La Grange, TX
8. Blake Peterson, QB, Topeka, KS
9. Willie Williams, OL, Pearland, TX
10. Easy Anyama, S, Houston, TX

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

Average yards per play for Texas State in 2014. The offense increased by 1.0 per play from 2013, the seventh-largest improvement in FBS.

6.1

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	33.8 ppg	4	31
Rushing	238.5 ypg	3	18
Passing	225.9 ypg	6	69
Total	464.4 ypg	3	24
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	27.7 ppg	6	73
Rushing	202.8 ypg	6	100
Passing	243.3 ypg	10	85
Total	446.1 ypg	7	99
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+7	+0.58	2	25

OFFENSE A year removed from one of the biggest changes Texas State head coach Dennis Franchione has made during his second stint in San Marcos, the Bobcats are in a much better position on offense. Texas State's switch to an up-tempo attack last season paid dividends for the Bobcats, who improved in most statistical categories. Texas State averaged 77 plays per game last season (up from 64 in 2013), racked up 33.8 points per game (23.9 in 2013) and amassed 464.3 yards of total offense per game (326.3 in 2013). "The balance we had was great," Franchione says. "I felt like the plan we devised in the offseason was a good one. The numbers seem to bear that out."

With junior quarterback Tyler Jones and senior tailback Robert Lowe back in the fold, Texas State could be poised to take another leap on offense. What could hold the Bobcats back this season, however, are some unknowns, especially at wide receiver.

Senior slot receiver C.J. Best turned in a breakthrough campaign last season, but Texas State needs more from wideouts Brandon Smith, Demun Mercer and Jafus Gaines to become an elite offense in the Sun Belt.

DEFENSE The Bobcats experienced just as much upheaval — if not more — on this side of the ball last season as John Thompson brought a new scheme to Franchione's team. While this season will mark Year 2 under Thompson, Texas State experienced plenty of turnover in the offseason: Thompson lost his four best defenders, including linebacker David Mayo, who was named the Sun Belt's Defensive Player of the Year.

If the Bobcats are going to find a groove, it will likely come down to the front seven. Texas State has targeted its defensive line as an area it must strengthen to compete against the likes of Arkansas State, Georgia Southern and UL Lafayette. With that in mind, the Bobcats will look for the emergence of sophomore Jeff Banks and junior Roosevelt Pearson as edge rushers and senior Mershad Dillon as a run stopper in the middle.

Even so, Texas State could be in line for an uphill battle on defense, especially early in the season, as Thompson tries to find the right mix of players. The Bobcats have to find someone to replace Mayo, which figures to be a difficult task when you consider that the linebacker had a monster season despite not having a consistent running mate alongside him to provide support.

SPECIALISTS A stellar campaign from kicker/punter Will Johnson notwithstanding, special teams were a mess for Texas State last season. And with Johnson out of the mix (he exhausted his eligibility), the Bobcats will head into this season with a bevy of unanswered questions when it comes to special teams. Texas State inked James Sherman before last season and added Lumi Kaba in its most recent recruiting class. At the moment, it appears that Sherman will take over punting duties, while Kaba will be the Bobcats' placekicker. Look for this unit to be a work in progress.

FINAL ANALYSIS Texas State has been knocking on the door for a bowl game during the past two seasons. In fact, the Bobcats were the only 7–5 bowl-eligible team not to receive a postseason invite last season. To secure its first bowl berth in program history, Texas State will likely ask its offense to carry the torch early in the hope that its defense will flourish toward the end of the season. The Bobcats have a favorable home schedule but must face league powers Arkansas State, Georgia Southern and UL Lafayette on the road. If Texas State can sweep its home slate and steal one or two games on the road, Franchione's team should finally bust down the bowl door.



TYLER JONES

"They should have one of the better offenses in the league. The hardest guy to replace may be their kicker."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	80	**Jafus Gaines (Sr.)**	10	Demun Mercer (So.)	
WR	9	C.J. Best (Sr.)	89	Ryan Garrey (Sr.)	
WR	5	**Brandon Smith (Sr.)**	88	Brice Gunter (So.)	
LT	64	**Adrian Bellard (Sr.)**	67	Tryston Mizerak (Fr.)	
LG	62	Brandon Sarabia (Sr.)	79	Kian Schoenborn (Fr.)	
C	70	Jackson Hoskins (So.)	74	Stephan Jacobs (Sr.)	
RG	77	**Felix Romero (Jr.)**	58	Zach Crawford (Sr.)	
RT	76	**Ryan Melton (Jr.)**	73	Hayden Lambert (Jr.)	
TE	85	Lawrence White (Sr.)	84	Ryan Carden (Sr.)	
QB	2	**Tyler Jones (Jr.)**	10	Connor White (Fr.)	
RB	28	**Robert Lowe (Sr.)**	37	Tim Gay (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (5)

DE	41	Jeff Banks (So.)	4	Jerrid Jeter-Gilmon (Sr.)	
NT	63	**Dallas McClarty (Jr.)**	53	Will Trevillion (So.)	
DT	42	**Mershad Dillon (Sr.)**	97	Cedric Gambrell (Fr.)	
DE	92	Rusmin Nikocevic (Sr.)	44	Roosevelt Pearson (Jr.)	
SLB	40	Stephen Smith (Jr.)	8	Teron Fitzgerald (Jr.)	
MLB	52	**Trey McGowan (Sr.)**	51	Jordan Mittie (Fr.)	
WLB	29	Camyron Brown (Fr.)	47	Easy Anyama (So.)	
ROV	17	**Damani Alexcee (Jr.)**	9	Aaron Shaw (Sr.)	
CB	22	**David Mims II (Sr.)**	24	Javante O'Roy (Jr.)	
CB	6	Brandon McDowell (So.)	5	Andrew Aneke (Fr.)	
FS	15	Dila Rosemond (So.)	19	Stephan Johnson (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Lumi Kaba (Jr.)	KR	5	Brandon Smith (Sr.)
P	43	James Sherman (Fr.)	PR	6	Brandon McDowell (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Jones, 376-246-2,670-7, 22 TDs
Rushing: Robert Lowe, 185 att., 1,091 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: C.J. Best, 37 rec., 355 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Trey McGowan, 80
Sacks: Dallas McClarty, 3.0
Interceptions: David Mims II, 5

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Texas State Athletics

TROY TROJANS

National Forecast: 118
Sun Bell Prediction: 8

Head Coach: Neal Brown
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Kenny Edenfield, Matt Moore
Defensive Coordinator: Vic Koenning
Troy, AL • Veterans Memorial Stadium (30,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at NC State
12 Charleston Southern
19 at Wisconsin

OCTOBER
3 South Alabama
10 at Mississippi State
17 Idaho
24 at New Mexico State
31 at Appalachian State

NOVEMBER
7 UL Monroe
14 Georgia Southern
27 at Georgia State

DECEMBER
5 at UL Lafayette

2014 RESULTS (3-9, 3-5)

Aug.	30	at UAB	L	10-48
Sept.	6	Duke	L	17-34
Sept.	13	Abilene Christian	L	35-38
Sept.	20	at Georgia	L	0-66
Sept.	27	at UL Monroe	L	20-22
Oct.	11	New Mexico State	W	41-24
Oct.	18	Appalachian State	L	14-53
Oct.	24	at South Alabama	L	13-27
Oct.	30	at Georgia Southern	L	10-42
Nov.	8	Georgia State	W	45-21
Nov.	15	at Idaho	W	34-17
Nov.	29	UL Lafayette	L	23-42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Damien Kemp, OT, Greensboro, GA
2. Demone Kemp, DT, Greensboro, GA
3. Doug Salter, LB, Brantley, AL
4. Antione Baker, DE, Pensacola, FL
5. Richard Hallman, WR, Powder Springs, GA
6. Melvin Tyus, RB, Montgomery, AL
7. James Peach, OL, Brewton, AL
8. A.J. Smiley, LB, Hoover, AL
9. Cedarius Rookard, S, Spartanburg, SC
10. Kirk Kelley, OT, Marrero, LA

STAT CORNER

The last season someone other than Larry Blakeney led the Troy football program. Neal Brown takes over for a legend.

1990

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	21.8 ppg	10	105
Rushing	164.5 ypg	8	58
Passing	198.8 ypg	8	91
Total	363.3 ypg	10	100
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	36.2 ppg	8	111
Rushing	246.1 ypg	8	118
Passing	207.9 ypg	5	35
Total	454.0 ypg	8	107
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+4	+0.33	4	40

OFFENSE Old habits die hard, so it will come as little surprise that first-year Troy coach Neal Brown, a former offensive coordinator for the Trojans before moving on to the same job at Texas Tech and Kentucky, plans to continue calling plays in his new role. The offense will have his stamp on it, which means an emphasis on a faster pace of play and less rotation of players.

Brown's task won't be easy. While there are several starters returning, there are also holes that must be filled and, more important, consistency that must be established. The Trojans were 10th in the Sun Belt in both scoring offense and total offense last year.

Brown appears to have his quarterback in place, which is a nice start. Brandon Silvers set the NCAA record for pass completion percentage (70.5) by a freshman, but he was up and down. One positive: He threw only three interceptions in 271 attempts. Dallas Tidwell and perhaps incoming freshman Gardner Minshew will try to impress the new staff in the fall, but the job appears to be Silvers' to lose.

Running back is perhaps the deepest position on the offense, though Brandon Burks and Jordan Chunn combined to barely top 1,000 yards rushing in 2014. Josh Anderson, a 260-pound fullback, should have an impact.

Bryan Holmes, K.D. Edenfield and Teddy Ruben return to the receiving corps, and if Brown has his way, the group should be far more productive this fall.

The offensive line will be led by Antonio Garcia and Dalton Bennett, but improvement is needed there as well. This group will have to adjust to the faster pace of play that Brown intends to implement.

DEFENSE In effect, the Trojans' defense is being rebuilt from scratch. Brown hired Vic Koenning as defensive coordinator, a position he held at the school from 2003-04. The Trojans ranked near the bottom of the league in most key defensive categories in 2014, and they gave up at least 40 points five times in 12 games.

Koenning will technically run a 4-2-5 alignment but will often switch the alignments in an effort to catch the opponent off guard. The aim is to use a swarming attack that takes advantage of speed and quickness off the edge.

Up front, Troy has Tyler Roberts and former Arkansas Razorback Lonnie Gosha leading the way, with some expected added talent also set to contribute. At linebacker, junior college signees William Lloyd and Justin Lucas are expected to step in and play big roles right away. In the secondary, newcomers Jalen Rountree and LaMarcus Farmer should add experience and talent. Troy ranked a respectable fifth in the Sun Belt in passing defense last season.

SPECIALISTS The placekicking duties are wide open, and the competition will continue right up until the start of the season. Ryan Kay will return as the team's punter. The Trojans were average at best in the return game last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS In many ways, this is a complete rebuild for Brown and his coaching staff. The once-proud Troy program had fallen on hard times in recent years; the Trojans have missed a bowl in four straight seasons after playing in the postseason four times from 2006-10.

A bowl game isn't likely this fall, either. The Trojans have a difficult non-conference schedule that includes trips to NC State, Wisconsin and Mississippi State, and they play Sun Belt heavyweights Appalachian State and UL-Lafayette on the road.

Anything close to six wins should be considered a big success in Year 1 of the Brown era.


BRANDON BURKS

"Neal Brown knows the program and brought in a good staff. I think he'll get them back in the mix pretty quick."
– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	**Teddy Ruben (Sr.)**	4	Trey Page (Sr.)
WR	13	**K.D. Edenfield (Sr.)**	87	Clark Quisenberry (Jr.)
WR	18	**Bryan Holmes (Sr.)**	83	Blace Brown (So.)
LT	53	**Antonio Garcia (Jr.)**	58	Aaron Herring (So.)
LG	71	Luke Lawrence (Jr.)	66	Taylor Edwards (So.)
C	69	**Dalton Bennett (Sr.)**		Jay Dye (Fr.)
RG	62	Johnathan Boring (Jr.)	77	Xavier Fields (Jr.)
RT	74	David Gross (Jr.)	72	Tyler Lassiter (Jr.)
TE	88	**Tommy Blevins (Sr.)**	42	Gabe Hill (Fr.)
QB	12	**Brandon Silvers (So.)**	1	Dontreal Pruitt (Sr.)
RB	32	**Brandon Burks (Sr.)**	36	Jordan Chunn (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	49	Rashad Dillard (Jr.)	30	**Jamal Stadom (So.)**
DT	92	Garrett Peek (Jr.)	51	Deon Lee (Sr.)
DT	98	**Lonnie Gosha (Sr.)**	93	Bryan Slater (So.)
DE	44	**Tyler Roberts (Sr.)**	5	Sam Lebbie (So.)
LB	23	William Lloyd (Jr.)	20	Terris Lewis (Jr.)
LB	13	Justin Lucas (Jr.)	26	Mitchell Roland (Jr.)
CB	9	Darrin Reddick (Sr.)		Demetrius Cain (Jr.)
CB	22	Jalen Rountree (Jr.)	10	Dondrell Harris (So.)
S	3	LaMarcus Farmer (Sr.)	39	Josh Burnham (Sr.)
S	17	Rod Adams (Sr.)		Robert Johnson (Fr.)
S	1	**Montres Kitchens (Sr.)**	14	**JaQuadrian Lewis (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Ryan Kay (Jr.)	KR	7	Teddy Ruben (Sr.)
P	99	Ryan Kay (Jr.)	PR	18	Bryan Holmes (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Silvers, 271-191-1,836-3, 11 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Burks, 96 att., 584 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Bryan Holmes, 34 rec., 474 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Montres Kitchens, 88
Sacks: Tyler Roberts, 5.0
Interceptions: Montres Kitchens, 6

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Troy Athletics

UL LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

National Forecast: 87
Sun Belt Prediction: 3

Head Coach: Mark Hudspeth
Record at School: 36-16 (4 years)
Career Record: 102-37 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Johnson
Defensive Co-Coordinators: Charlie Harbison, Melvin Smith
Lafayette, LA • Cajun Field (36,900)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
5 at Kentucky
12 Northwestern State
26 Akron

OCTOBER
3 at Louisiana Tech
10 Texas State
20 at Arkansas State
31 UL Monroe

NOVEMBER
7 at Georgia State
12 at South Alabama
21 New Mexico State
28 at Appalachian State

DECEMBER
5 Troy

2014 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Aug.	30	Southern	W	45-6
Sept.	6	Louisiana Tech	L	20-48
Sept.	13	at Ole Miss	L	15-56
Sept.	20	at Boise State	L	9-34
Oct.	4	Georgia State	W	34-31
Oct.	14	at Texas State	W	34-10
Oct.	21	Arkansas State	W	55-40
Nov.	1	South Alabama	W	19-9
Nov.	8	at New Mexico State	W	44-16
Nov.	15	at UL Monroe	W	34-27
Nov.	22	Appalachian State	L	16-35
Nov.	29	at Troy	W	42-23
Dec.	20	vs. Nevada #	W	16-3

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dion Ray, QB, New Orleans, LA
2. Mario Osborne, DE, Daphne, AL
3. Keenan Barnes, ATH, Madison, MS
4. Gary Haynes, ATH, Manvel, TX
5. Terik Miller, ATH, Pensacola, FL
6. Carlos Robinson, TE, Monroe, LA
7. Ja'Marcus Bradley, ATH, Ackerman, MS
8. Michael Jacquet, WR, Beaumont, TX
9. Jordan Wright, RB, Pearl, MS
10. Christian Goodlett, DB, Lawrenceville, GA*

*junior college transfer

STAT CORNER

36

The Ragin' Cajuns' win total over four seasons under Mark Hudspeth. They'd won 38 games in the previous eight years pre-Hud.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	29.5 ppg	5	58
Rushing	225.9 ypg	4	22
Passing	191.5 ypg	10	98
Total	417.4 ypg	7	54
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	26.0 ppg	2	56
Rushing	142.2 ypg	1	35
Passing	263.6 ypg	11	105
Total	405.8 ypg	5	72
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+3	+0.23	5	48

OFFENSE Certainly the Ragin' Cajuns' offense wasn't prolific a year ago. It finished 10th in the Sun Belt in passing offense, fourth in rushing offense and sixth in total offense. But it was efficient, finishing No. 1 in the league in red-zone offense. This season, with the departures of quarterback Terrance Broadway, leading receiver James Butler and bruising running back Alonza Harris, Louisiana-Lafayette will ask another player to lead the way — running back Elijah McGuire, the 2014 Sun Belt Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year.

McGuire won't have to share the ball with Harris, and he's expected to continue to catch passes out of the backfield after he was second on the team in receiving yards last season. He's even going to be the punt returner. While he shared the spotlight a year ago, the Cajuns' offense will be geared toward getting him the ball as often as possible this year.

Yet if the Cajuns are to excel offensively, others must step forward, especially at quarterback. Three players who appeared in just six games combined last season — juniors Brooks Haack and Jalen Nixon and redshirt freshman Jordan Davis — will battle to replace Broadway. There is talent at wide receiver in Al Riles, Jamal Robinson and C.J. Bates. And while the offensive line is looking for two new starters, All-Sun Belt candidates Mykhael Quave and Grant Horst return.

DEFENSE This unit will have a different look. That's because there are some new faces on the defensive staff, led by co-defensive coordinators Charlie Harbison (outside linebackers) and Melvin Smith (defensive backs), both of whom make their way to Lafayette from Auburn. They bring along Levorn Harbin to coach the defensive line, and the trio has helped instill a different mindset and approach on that side of the football, one that showed signs of improvement in spring drills.

The defense didn't dominate the Sun Belt stats, but it placed well in areas that mattered such as second in scoring defense and No. 1 in red-zone defense. The Cajuns allowed 405.8 yards per game, including a league-worst 263.6 passing yards, and improving those numbers has been a point of emphasis.

The Cajuns are loaded at linebacker with Dominique Tovell, Tre'maine Lightfoot and Otha Peters. The problem area is on the defensive line, where standouts Christian Ringo and Justin Hamilton have moved on. Chris Prater and Miami transfer Jacoby Briscoe will be expected to step forward there. The secondary, also missing some key players from a year ago, will lean on Troy McCollum and T.J. Worthy.

SPECIALISTS The return game will have experience, with McGuire expected to be used on punt returns and Montrel Carter back on kickoff returns. The concern from an experience standpoint is with the kicking duties. Dylan Scheurich and Stevie Artigue will battle for the placekicking job in preseason camp. At punter, Australian Steven Coutts caught the attention of coach Mark Hudspeth in spring drills, and the job appears to be his.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a program that has thrived under Hudspeth's leadership, and the Cajuns are expected to continue to enjoy success again this year. They have posted four consecutive 9–4 records and four straight New Orleans Bowl appearances. While competition will be strong, Lafayette is expected to contend for the Sun Belt title once again. There is concern based on inexperience at a couple of key positions, most notably quarterback and on the defensive line, but there is also a confidence among those in the program based on recent success.



ELIJAH McGUIRE

"Physically, they're probably the most impressive team on defense we'll see all year. They've got a ton of athletes."

– An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	4	Jamal Robinson (Sr.)	18	Devin Scott (Jr.)	
WR	2	**Al Riles (Jr.)**	13	Gabe Fuselier (So.)	
WR	21	C.J. Bates (Jr.)	7	Jared Johnson (Jr.)	
LT	72	Grant Horst (So.)		Raynard Ford (Jr.)	
LG	70	**Mykhael Quave (Sr.)**	65	Jesse Freeman (Fr.)	
C	79	Eddie Gordon (Sr.)	74	Drew Moore (Fr.)	
RG	77	**Donovan Williams (Sr.)**	76	Adrian Goodacre (Fr.)	
RT	68	**Octravian Anderson (Sr.)**	60	D'Aquin Withrow (So.)	
TE	81	Nick Byrne (Jr.)	10	Matthew Barnes (So.)	
QB	9	Brooks Haack (Jr.)	6	Jalen Nixon (Jr.)	
RB	15	Elijah McGuire (Jr.)	25	Torrey Pierce (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	57	Chris Prater (Sr.)	99	Remaine Douglas (Jr.)	
NT	90	Jacoby Briscoe (Jr.)	97	Sherard Johnson (So.)	
DT	55	Karmichael Dunbar (Jr.)	98	LaDarrius Kidd (Fr.)	
DE	44	Kevin Fouquier (Jr.)	39	Darzil Washington (Sr.)	
WLB	7	Otha Peters (Jr.)	29	Tyren Alexander (Sr.)	
MLB	4	Tre'maine Lightfoot (Jr.)	30	T.J. Posey (So.)	
SLB	52	**Dominique Tovell (Sr.)**	34	Ross Duhon (So.)	
CB	19	Troy McCollum (So.)	10	Christian Goodlett (Jr.)	
CB	8	Simeon Thomas (So.)	11	Jevante Watson (Sr.)	
SS	27	**T.J. Worthy (Sr.)**	16	**Travis Crawford (So.)**	
FS	23	**Tracy Walker (So.)**	20	Dominick Jones (Jr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Dylan Scheurich (Fr.)	KR	3	Montrel Carter (Sr.)
P	37	Steven Coutts (Fr.)	PR	15	Elijah McGuire (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brooks Haack, 23-20-179-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Elijah McGuire, 166 att., 1,264 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Elijah McGuire, 45 rec., 468 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Dominique Tovell, 76
Sacks: Darzil Washington, 5.0
Interceptions: Tracy Walker, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

UL Lafayette Athletics

ULM WARHAWKS

National Forecast: 115
Sun Belt Prediction: 7

Head Coach: Todd Berry
Record at School: 27-34 (5 years)
Career Record: 56-93 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Todd Berry
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Travis Niekamp, Adam Waugh
Monroe, LA • Malone Stadium (30,427)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	at Georgia	
12	Nicholls State	
26	at Alabama	
OCTOBER		
3	Georgia Southern	
10	at Tulsa	
17	Appalachian State	
24	at Idaho	
31	at UL Lafayette	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Troy	
14	Arkansas State	
19	at Texas State	
28	at Hawaii	
DECEMBER		
5	New Mexico State	

2014 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug.	28	Wake Forest	W	17-10
Sept.	6	Idaho	W	38-31
Sept.	13	at LSU	L	0-31
Sept.	27	Troy	W	22-20
Oct.	4	at Arkansas State	L	14-28
Oct.	11	at Kentucky	L	14-48
Oct.	25	Texas State	L	18-22
Nov.	1	at Texas A&M	L	16-21
Nov.	8	at Appalachian State	L	29-31
Nov.	15	UL Lafayette	L	27-34
Nov.	22	at New Mexico State	W	30-17
Nov.	29	at Georgia Southern	L	16-22

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cortez Sisco, DB, Southaven, MS
2. Xavier Dias, ATH, Many, LA
3. Sam Miller, DE, Canton, TX
4. Markis McCray, WR, Euless, TX
5. Chandler Eiland, QB, Canton, TX
6. Donald Louis, DE, Monroe, LA
7. Jaylen Veasley, DT, Rockwall, TX
8. Devin Jackson, OT, Marrero, LA
9. Will Collins, QB, Lawton, OK
10. Rey Baltazar, OL, Marble Falls, TX*

*junior college transfer

Rushes of at least 30 yards for ULM in 2014. Efficiency is king, but big plays can bail you out. There was no bailout for ULM.

STAT CORNER

0

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	20.1 ppg	11	112
Rushing	69.5 ypg	11	123
Passing	279.9 ypg	1	24
Total	349.4 ypg	11	106
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	26.3 ppg	3	57
Rushing	183.3 ypg	4	84
Passing	189.9 ypg	2	14
Total	373.3 ypg	2	47
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-1	-0.08	6	69

OFFENSE ULM will try to reboot its offense with head coach Todd Berry taking over play-calling duties after a lopsided performance in 2014: The Warhawks led the Sun Belt in passing but ranked dead last in rushing, total offense and scoring.

Stability at quarterback is needed. Senior Brayle Brown has some experience (29 games, two starts) and a deep understanding of the scheme, but he is also injury-prone. Redshirt freshman Garrett Smith is rougher around the edges for now, but he touts an upside as a dual-threat quarterback.

Don't be surprised if the competition stretches into the season, but the starter will be able to lean heavily on wideouts Rashon Ceaser and Ajalen Holley, the most productive returning receiver duo in the conference (134 receptions, 1,735 yards in 2014).

Sophomore Kaylon Watson and senior DeVontae McNeal, who missed last season with an injury, will share time at running back. It's an inexperienced pair with only 57 career rushing attempts combined. Neither the ground game nor the new quarterback will be effective if ULM doesn't answer lingering questions on the offensive line.

"We didn't play well up front last year, just static and not productive, and we still have some challenges there," Berry says. "So that quarterback has to have the ability of doing some special things and handle the tempo to help our offensive line."

DEFENSE Six of ULM's top seven tacklers from last season return to a unit that should come of age in 2015. And there are no discernible weak spots.

Nose tackle Gerrand Johnson, the first defensive lineman to lead ULM in tackles since 1980, will man the interior of the front. At linebacker, Hunter Kissinger was a first-team all-league performer last season, and Michael Johnson is the Sun Belt's returning sack leader. Mitch Lane, another first-team All-Sun Belt selection, leads the secondary at the Hawk position of ULM's 3-3-5 scheme.

"This is a senior-laden group that's been in a lot of ball games," Berry says. "Our linebacking corps is as good as any I've been around in a long time."

The defense more than doubled its sack total over the last two seasons, and expect another increase in pressure with an athletic, experienced group coming back.

SPECIALISTS The graduation of Justin Manton, an all-conference kicker and punter, leaves a large vacancy. Redshirt freshman Craig Ford will take over placekicking duties, while true freshman Chris Qualls will battle Ford at punter. Ceaser's 9.5-yard average on punt returns would have led the Sun Belt had he had enough attempts to qualify. Speedster Tyler Cain is also back to return kicks.

FINAL ANALYSIS An NCAA scheduling exemption allows ULM to play a 13-game schedule because it involves a trip to Hawaii. That could increase the Warhawks' bowl possibilities, but only if the veteran group weathers non-conference contests at Georgia and Alabama and 10 straight games without a bye week.

ULM has only five home games, but Berry's teams have overcome the school's scheduling challenges before with 6–6 and 8–5 seasons during the past three years. The Warhawks' final five losses last season were each by seven points or fewer, and the same slim margin should be there again.

Expect ULM's defense to be among the Sun Belt's best, but the team will go only as far as the offense and a new starting quarterback can take it. Berry is an imaginative offensive coach with a knack for getting the best out of his quarterbacks, and his expertise will be tested in 2015.



RASHON CEASER

"They got away from their identity a bit in the running game, so I'm sure Todd (Berry) is working to figure that out."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	21	**Ajalen Holley (Jr.)**	85	Jared Mapps (Jr.)	
WR	3	Tyler Cain (Sr.)	81	Marcus Green (Fr.)	
WR	2	**Rashon Ceaser (Sr.)**	6	Brian Williams (So.)	
LT	78	Rey Baltazar (Jr.)	77	Brandon Bridgers (So.)	
LG	75	**Frank Sutton (So.)**	70	Brian Thlang (Fr.)	
C	68	**Colby Mitchell (Sr.)**	50	Jeff Savage (Jr.)	
RG	72	Jake Snyder (Fr.)	67	Jimmy Chung (Jr.)	
RT	71	**Chase Regian (So.)**	79	Keaton Baggs (Fr.)	
TE	88	Harley Scioneaux (Sr.)	89	Alec Osborne (Jr.)	
QB	12	Brayle Brown (Sr.)	13	Garrett Smith (Fr.)	
RB	25	Kaylon Watson (So.)	28	DeVontae McNeal (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (8)

DE	49	Ben Banogu (Fr.)	52	Colton Moorehead (Jr.)	
NT	76	**Gerrand Johnson (Sr.)**	91	David Elias (So.)	
DE	45	**Lorenzo Jackson (Sr.)**	51	Jacob Tyson (So.)	
LB	34	**Michael Johnson (Sr.)**	33	Tevyn Cagins (Jr.)	
LB	48	**Hunter Kissinger (Sr.)**	15	Braxton Moore (Jr.)	
LB	5	Cody Robinson (Sr.)	37	David Griffith (Fr.)	
CB	1	**Lenzy Pipkins (Jr.)**	27	Grant Dotsy (So.)	
CB	24	**Trey Caldwell (Sr.)**	8	Junior Williams (Sr.)	
S	20	**Justin Backus (Jr.)**	26	Roland Jenkins (So.)	
S	4	Tre Hunter (Jr.)	32	Wesley Thompson (Fr.)	
S	7	**Mitch Lane (Sr.)**	30	Marquis McCullum (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Craig Ford (Fr.)	KR	3	Tyler Cain (Sr.)
P		Chris Qualls (Fr.)	PR	2	Rashon Ceaser (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brayle Brown, 24-14-172-1, 1 TD
Rushing: Tyler Cain, 63 att., 214 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Rashon Ceaser, 77 rec., 872 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Gerrand Johnson, 93
Sacks: Michael Johnson, 8.0
Interceptions: Mitch Lane, 3

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

ULM Athletics

ARMY WEST POINT BLACK KNIGHTS

National Forecast: 120

Head Coach: Jeff Monken
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 42-24 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Bateman
West Point, NY • Michie Stadium (38,000)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 Fordham
12 at Connecticut
19 Wake Forest
26 at Eastern Michigan

OCTOBER
3 at Penn State
10 Duke
17 Bucknell
24 at Rice

NOVEMBER
7 at Air Force
14 Tulane
21 Rutgers

DECEMBER
12 vs. Navy #

#Philadelphia, PA

2014 RESULTS (4-8)

Sept.	6	Buffalo		W	47-39
Sept.	13	at Stanford		L	0-35
Sept.	20	at Wake Forest		L	21-24
Sept.	27	at Yale	(ot)	L	43-49
Oct.	4	Ball State		W	33-24
Oct.	11	Rice		L	21-41
Oct.	18	at Kent State		L	17-39
Nov.	1	Air Force		L	6-23
Nov.	8	vs. Connecticut %		W	35-21
Nov.	15	at Western Kentucky		L	24-52
Nov.	22	Fordham		W	42-31
Dec.	13	vs. Navy #		L	10-17

%Bronx #Baltimore

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kenneth Brinson, DE, Atlanta, GA
2. James Gibson, S, Chantilly, VA
3. Kelvin Hopkins, QB, Charlotte, NC
4. Cole Jones, LB, Cincinnati, OH
5. Jaylon McClinton, CB, Charlotte, NC
6. Donavan Lynch, LB, Noblesville, IN
7. Connor Slomka, RB, Gibsonia, PA
8. Jacquese Steen, LB, Oakland, CA
9. Raymond Wright, DT, Charlotte, NC
10. Drue Harris, LB, Fountain, CO

STAT CORNER

2

Games in which Army threw for more than 100 yards in 2014. The Cadets also rushed for at least 290 yards eight times.

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	24.9 ppg	90
Rushing	296.5 ypg	5
Passing	62.3 ypg	125
Total	358.8 ypg	102
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	32.9 ppg	102
Rushing	193.0 ypg	93
Passing	237.8 ypg	83
Total	430.8 ypg	90
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
+2	+0.17	51

OFFENSE With Angel Santiago having graduated and A.J. Schurr sidelined with a shoulder injury, Army went through spring drills without a quarterback who saw game action in 2014. Schurr, a senior who started two games last season, is the Cadets' leading returning rusher. He will be challenged by Ahmad Bradshaw in fall camp. Bradshaw has explosive speed, and coach Jeff Monken noted how he improved his decision-making as the spring progressed. Junior Matt Kaufmann also got a lot of reps in the spring.

With the country's fifth-best rushing attack having graduated nearly 3,000 of its yards, there will be ample opportunity for several players to step up. Junior Joe Walker joins Elijah St. Hilaire and converted defensive back Joey Giovannelli among those vying for playing time. Monken is looking to build depth at fullback behind the solid duo of senior Matt Giachinta and junior Aaron Kemper.

An offensive line anchored by senior center Matt Hugenberg returns Justin Gilbert, who missed last season with a torn ACL after starting 2013 at right tackle. Sophomore Jaryn Villegas started at both guard spots the second half of last season.

Among receivers, junior Edgar Poe started nine games last season, and sophomore Jeff Ejekam had a good spring. Senior Kelvin White returns at tight end.

DEFENSE Five of the front seven graduated, including all four linemen. The holdovers are junior linebackers Andrew King and Jeremy Timpf. The former recorded a team-high 5.0 sacks last season, and the latter led in tackles (117) and tackles for a loss (14.5) while also picking off three passes. Monken was very pleased with the spring performance of sophomore end John Voit, who appeared in 11 games as a reserve last season. The second-year coach believes senior T.J. Atimalala was making strides toward being the starting nose tackle.

A new face in the secondary is former receiver Xavier Moss. The junior was moved to safety prior to spring drills. Senior Chris Carnegie — whose 99-yard interception return sealed last year's win over UConn — and junior Josh Jenkins are returning starters at corner. Steven Johnson, who started six games at safety last season, filled in for the injured Carnegie during the spring. Monken feels Johnson is a better fit at corner, which is where he could find himself in nickel packages at the very least.

SPECIAL TEAMS Jenkins handled the bulk of the return duties last season. But after placing 117th nationally in punt returns and 123rd on kick returns, both units could stand considerable improvement. Poe, Ejekam and perhaps a freshman or two will be given an opportunity to breathe life into the return game. Kicker Daniel Grochowski and punter Alex Tardieu are back for their senior seasons. Grochowski's 52-yard field goal against Navy last season was the program's longest in 20 years.

FINAL ANALYSIS With so many starters on both sides of the ball having departed, Monken has a lot of holes to plug, and a few jobs will not be determined until well into fall camp and perhaps beyond. Monken has assembled a solid staff and has been an aggressive recruiter. He may have to rely on players coming in from the Army prep program and/or members of this year's recruiting class arriving in the summer to fill vacancies. He is also recruiting faster and more athletic players, something that has been noticeably lacking at West Point. This may be a season of growing pains, but many indicators are at least headed in an upward direction as Monken continues to put his stamp on a success-starved program that has lost 13 straight to Navy.



ANDREW KING

"They made some progress last year. They had some nice wins. They are getting better."
— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (2)

WR	82	**Edgar Poe (Jr.)**	15	DeAndre Bell (Sr.)	
WR	81	Jeff Ejekam (So.)	84	Jermaine Adams (So.)	
LT	73	Drew Hennessy (Sr.)	50	Ryan Alexander (Sr.)	
LG	74	Jaryn Villegas (So.)	70	Mike Houghton (So.)	
C	53	**Matt Hugenberg (Sr.)**	66	Josh Boylan (So.)	
RG	75	Stefan Moreau (Jr.)	65	Bryce Holland (So.)	
RT	60	Justin Gilbert (Sr.)	78	Brett Toth (So.)	
QB	11	A.J. Schurr (Sr.)	17	Ahmad Bradshaw (So.)	
SB	5	Joe Walker (Jr.)	29	Joey Giovannelli (Sr.)	
SB	30	Elijah St. Hilaire (Jr.)	46	Egbezien Obiomon (So.)	
FB	40	Matt Giachinta (Sr.)	25	Aaron Kemper (Jr.)	

DEFENSE (4)

DE	59	John Voit (So.)	75	Evan Finnane (Sr.)	
NG	93	T.J. Atimalala (Sr.)	58	Andrew McLean (So.)	
DE	57	Jordan Smith (Jr.)	48	Shawn Lemoto (Jr.)	
OLB	50	Bayle Wolf (So.)	37	Blake Goddard (So.)	
ILB	39	**Jeremy Timpf (Jr.)**	44	Kyle Ricciardi (Sr.)	
ILB	11	**Andrew King (Jr.)**	51	Justin Fahn (Sr.)	
OLB	13	Seth Combs (Jr.)	21	Alex Aukerman (So.)	
CB	3	**Josh Jenkins (Jr.)**	19	Mike McFadden (Sr.)	
CB	14	**Chris Carnegie (Sr.)**	17	Steven Johnson (Jr.)	
S	9	Xavier Moss (Jr.)	8	Tevin Long (Jr.)	
S	20	Rhyan England (So.)	10	Gervon Simon (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Dan Grochowski (Sr.)	KR	3	Josh Jenkins (Jr.)
P	80	Alex Tardieu (Sr.)	PR	82	Edgar Poe (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: A.J. Schurr, 28-12-242-1, 1 TD
Rushing: A.J. Schurr, 45 att., 320 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Edgar Poe, 10 rec., 199 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Jeremy Timpf, 117
Sacks: Andrew King, 5.0
Interceptions: Josh Jenkins, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

USMA Athletics

BYU COUGARS

National Forecast: 49

Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall
Record at School: 90-39 (10 years)
Career Record: 90-39 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Anae
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Howell
Provo, UT • LaVell Edwards Stadium (63,470)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	
5	at Nebraska
12	Boise State
19	at UCLA
26	at Michigan
OCTOBER	
2	Connecticut
10	East Carolina
17	Cincinnati
24	Wagner
NOVEMBER	
7	at San Jose State
14	vs. Missouri #
21	Fresno State
28	at Utah State

#Kansas City, MO

2014 RESULTS (8-5)

Aug.	29	Connecticut	W	35-10
Sept.	6	at Texas	W	41-7
Sept.	11	Houston	W	33-25
Sept.	20	Virginia	W	41-33
Oct.	3	Utah State	L	20-35
Oct.	9	UCF	(ot) L	24-31
Oct.	18	Nevada	L	35-42
Oct.	24	at Boise State	L	30-55
Nov.	1	at Middle Tennessee	W	27-7
Nov.	15	UNLV	W	42-23
Nov.	22	Savannah State	W	64-0
Nov.	29	at California	W	42-35
Dec.	22	vs. Memphis #	(ot) L	48-55

#Miami Beach Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Eric Takenaka, DB, Salt Lake City, UT*
2. Mika Tafua, OL, Laie, HI
3. Dayan Lake, DB, Layton, UT
4. Jacob Jimenez, OL, Pflugerville, TX
5. Tevita Mo'unga, DT, Murrieta, CA
6. JJ Nwigwe, OL, Rockwall, TX
7. Kieffer Longson, OL, San Ramon, CA
8. Will Sedgwick, LB, Laguna Hills, CA
9. Beau Hoge, QB, Fort Thomas, KY.
10. Kody Wilstead, QB, St. George, UT

*junior college transfer

Average points per game scored by BYU after Taysom Hill's season-ending injury. Cougars averaged 34.0 per game with Hill.

STAT CORNER

39.0

2014 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	37.1 ppg	14
Rushing	181.8 ypg	47
Passing	278.7 ypg	26
Total	460.5 ypg	26
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	27.5 ppg	71
Rushing	121.8 ypg	20
Passing	269.7 ypg	112
Total	391.5 ypg	56
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-1	-0.08	66

OFFENSE BYU was 4–0 and ranked No. 18 before quarterback Taysom Hill broke his leg in the second quarter against Utah State, and the Cougars lost four straight games before recovering to finish 8–5 in 2014. Always a strong runner, Hill had shown signs of becoming an outstanding passer prior to his injury. He completed 66.7 percent of his passes in five games, a major improvement over his sophomore season. Hill also ran for 460 yards and eight touchdowns in 2014. Running is a big part of his game, but he may be more conscious of protecting himself as a senior. He did not fully participate in spring drills but continued his passing development in limited work. "His arm is really good," says offensive coordinator Robert Anae.

Jamaal Williams needs 930 yards to become BYU's all-time leading rusher. He might have challenged the record as a junior, but his season ended in early November because of a knee injury. If he's at full strength in 2015, he will complement Hill's ability, and BYU should have a dynamic offense.

Receiver Mitch Mathews was the offense's star of the spring, positioning himself for a big senior season. The coaches worry about depth on the line, but they're very confident about the ability of the starters, led by Freshman All-America center Tejan Koroma.

DEFENSE BYU's 55–48 double-overtime loss to Memphis in the Miami Beach Bowl persuaded coach Bronco Mendenhall to take over the defense again, after having coordinator Nick Howell make the in-game calls in 2014. Mendenhall is asking a lot of the defensive players, in effort and accountability. "They're learning and adjusting to that," he says. "They're slowly making steps, rising to the expectations and demands I'm placing. Eventually, they'll play well."

Bronson Kaufusi is BYU's best athlete among defensive players. Finding the best position for him is the issue. He played outside linebacker in 2014 and was productive, with a team-high 11.5 tackles for a loss, but he may be better suited at end.

Some of the Cougars' top linebackers missed spring drills, but all of them are expected to be available in August and should help BYU improve after ranking 56th in total defense, allowing 391.5 yards per game. Harvey Langi is an intriguing player, having played running back at Utah prior to transferring and moving to defense.

Mendenhall is comfortable with his front seven but has concerns in the secondary, where junior college transfer Eric Takenaka was a discovery at safety in the spring.

SPECIALISTS Trevor Samson attempted only 14 field goals in 2014, but he made 12, including a season-long 45-yarder in overtime against Memphis. Punting is a big issue, as BYU replaces Scott Arellano. Two freshmen, Taylor Parker and Chasen Brown, are among the contenders. Adam Hine's 24.5-yard average on kickoff returns included a 99-yard touchdown against Virginia. Takenaka was an outstanding returner at Snow College and will join Hine.

FINAL ANALYSIS BYU's 2014 season did not end well. The loss to Memphis, followed by a postgame brawl, left the Cougars with regrets. The Cougars' September schedule offers an opportunity for them to feel better about themselves and improve the outside perception of the program. Games with Nebraska, Boise State, UCLA and Michigan will go a long way toward defining BYU's 2015 season. In an era when BYU is an Independent, Mendenhall is eager to make an impact. "We're playing our way into contention and national recognition through the best opponents on the biggest stages, mostly away from home," he says.


TAYSOM HILL

"I think Taysom Hill gives them a chance to be an elite team because he's a difference maker."

-An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**10**	**Mitch Mathews (Sr.)**	13	Kurt Henderson (Sr.)	
WR	19	Devon Blackmon (Sr.)	5	Nick Kurtz (Jr.)	
WR	3	Colby Pearson (Jr.)	11	Terenn Houk (Sr.)	
LT	75	Brad Wilcox (Jr.)	72	Ryker Mathews (Sr.)	
LG	**67**	**Kyle Johnson (Jr.)**	66	Manu Mulitalo (Jr.)	
C	**56**	**Tejan Koroma (So.)**	54	Parker Dawe (Jr.)	
RG	78	Tuni Kanuch (So.)	77	Jaterrius Gulley (Fr.)	
RT	**73**	**Ului Lapuaho (So.)**	72	Ryker Mathews (Sr.)	
TE	89	Steven Richards (Fr.)	98	Tanner Balderree (So.)	
QB	**4**	**Taysom Hill (Sr.)**		Tanner Mangum (Fr.)	
RB	21	Jamaal Williams (Sr.)	28	Adam Hine (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**90**	**Bronson Kaufusi (Sr.)**	**44**	**Remington Peck (Sr.)**	
DT	**91**	**Travis Tuiloma (Jr.)**	94	Kesni Tausinga (So.)	
DE	62	Logan Taele (Sr.)	**92**	**Graham Rowley (Sr.)**	
LB	31	Sae Tautu (Jr.)	4	Fred Warner (So.)	
LB	42	Austin Heder (Jr.)	21	Harvey Langi (Jr.)	
LB	43	Jherremya Leuta-Douyere (Sr.)	**22**	**Manoa Pikula (Sr.)**	
LB	16	Sione Takitaki (So.)	2	Troy Hinds (So.)	
CB	7	Micah Hanneman (So.)	18	Michael Shelton (Fr.)	
CB	20	Jordan Preator (So.)	**15**	**Michael Davis (Jr.)**	
S	12	Kai Nacua (Jr.)	17	Chris Badger (Jr.)	
S	33	Eric Takenaka (Jr.)	37	Grant Jones (So.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Trevor Samson (Sr.)	**KR**	28	Adam Hine (Sr.)
P	41	Taylor Parker (Fr.)	**PR**	33	Eric Takenaka (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taysom Hill, 132-86-975-3, 7 TDs
Rushing: Jamaal Williams, 109 att., 518 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Mitch Mathews, 73 rec., 922 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Manoa Pikula, 49
Sacks: Bronson Kaufusi, 7.0
Interceptions: Kai Nacua, 2

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Mark A. Philbrick/BYU Photo

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

National Forecast: 12

Head Coach: Brian Kelly
Record at School: 45-20 (5 years)
Career Record: 216-77-2 (24 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Sanford
Defensive Coordinator: Brian VanGorder
South Bend, IN
Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

2015 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
5	Texas	
12	at Virginia	
19	Georgia Tech	
26	Massachusetts	
OCTOBER		
3	at Clemson	
10	Navy	
17	USC	
31	at Temple	
NOVEMBER		
7	at Pittsburgh	
14	Wake Forest	
21	vs. Boston College #	
28	at Stanford	

#Boston, MA

2014 RESULTS (8-5)

Aug.	30	Rice	W	48-17
Sept.	6	Michigan	W	31-0
Sept.	13	vs. Purdue %	W	30-14
Sept.	27	vs. Syracuse $	W	31-15
Oct.	4	Stanford	W	17-14
Oct.	11	North Carolina	W	50-43
Oct.	18	at Florida State	L	27-31
Nov.	1	vs. Navy &	W	49-39
Nov.	8	at Arizona State	L	31-55
Nov.	15	Northwestern	(ot) L	40-43
Nov.	22	Louisville	L	28-31
Nov.	29	at USC	L	14-49
Dec.	30	vs. LSU #	W	31-28

%Indianapolis $East Rutherford &Landover
#Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brandon Wimbush, QB, Hackensack, NJ
2. Alize Jones, TE, Las Vegas, NV
3. Tristen Hoge, C, Pocatello, ID
4. Dexter Williams, RB, Orlando, FL
5. Shaun Crawford, CB, Lakewood, OH
6. Josh Barajas, LB, Valparaiso, IN
7. Jerry Tillery, DT, Shreveport, LA
8. Equanimeous St. Brown, WR, Anaheim, CA
9. Asmar Bilal, LB, Indianapolis, IN
10. Miles Boykin, WR, Tinley Park, IL

STAT CORNER

.500

Notre Dame's win percentage against power conference teams (10-10) since qualifying for the 2012 BCS Championship.

2014 RANKINGS

Defense	Per Game	National
Scoring	32.8 ppg	38
Rushing	159.5 ypg	68
Passing	285.5 ypg	18
Total	444.9 ypg	32
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	29.2 ppg	82
Rushing	171.2 ypg	72
Passing	233.0 ypg	75
Total	404.2 ypg	71
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-3	-0.23	81

OFFENSE Notre Dame showed marked improvement in scoring (from 27.2 ppg in 2013 to 32.8 in 2014) and total offense (405.8 ypg to 444.9), and all but four starters return in '15. The challenge is maximizing the assets, beginning with the quarterback position, where turnover-prone Everett Golson and Music City Bowl starter/spark Malik Zaire fight for snaps.

The offensive line, led by veterans Ronnie Stanley (left tackle), Nick Martin (center) and Steve Elmer (right guard), is the foundation upon which the Irish attack is built.

There appear to be plenty of skill-position buttons to push, starting with wideout Will Fuller, who exploded as a sophomore with 76 receptions for 1,094 yards and a school-record-tying 15 touchdowns. Running back Tarean Folston also had a quality sophomore season (889 yards rushing). Now the challenge is to get former five-star recruit Greg Bryant in the mix with Folston.

Weapons abound in the receiving corps, but reliability is the challenge. Corey Robinson, Chris Brown and Amir Carlisle have yet to put together consistent seasons. C.J. Prosise offers versatility in the backfield and receiving prowess from the slot. Durham Smythe is the heir apparent to a dynamic tight end tradition.

DEFENSE It was a tale of two defenses in 2014, but most of the unit is back. The hope is the group that held its first five opponents to 60 points (12.0 ppg) will show itself more than the defense that surrendered 319 points (39.8 ppg) against the last eight opponents.

Ringleaders include two-time captain/defensive tackle Sheldon Day (7.5 tackles for a loss, nine QB hurries), linebacker Jaylon Smith (team-leading 112 tackles, 9.0 tackles for a loss) and linebacker Joe Schmidt, who garnered defensive MVP honors despite missing the last five games with a broken ankle.

To get to the next level, the Irish will need a more stout performance up front than the 26 sacks of 2014. Defensive end Isaac Rochell (7.5 tackles for a loss, 10 QB hurries) emerged as a building block as a sophomore. Nose tackle Jarron Jones, also coming off a significant foot injury, forms a dynamic one-two punch with Day up the middle. The pass rush should come from ends Romeo Okwara and Andrew Trumbetti, among several candidates. Look for freshman nose tackle Jerry Tillery to make an impact.

The return of cornerback KeiVarae Russell after his academic suspension is huge. He'll pair with Cole Luke, who tied for the team lead with four interceptions to go with 15 passes defensed and 11 broken up. Safeties Elijah Shumate and Max Redfield struggled a good portion of the time in 2014, but they're back and their troubles were not for a lack of talent.

SPECIALISTS Do-everything Kyle Brindza is gone after a quality but often-erratic career with the Irish. There could be a drop-off punting with Tyler Newsome moving into the lineup, but highly touted true freshman kicker Justin Yoon has the skills to hit the ground running. Fuller, Carlisle and Bryant are the likely return men.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's the sixth year of the Brian Kelly regime, and in only one of the previous five — 2012 when the Irish played for the national title vs. Alabama — has Notre Dame finished with fewer than four losses.

This is the deepest, most well-equipped team Kelly has fielded. If the Irish can maximize the quarterback position, establish a consistent ground game and play more stout up front defensively, this season should resemble 2012 more than any of the others under Kelly. That would mean playing in a New Year's Day bowl if not contending for a playoff spot.


JAYLON SMITH

"They'll probably get back to being one of the top teams if they can get consistency in quarterback play."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	7	**Will Fuller (Jr.)**	15	Corey Holmes (So.)
WR	2	**Chris Brown (Sr.)**	88	Corey Robinson (Jr.)
WR	20	C.J. Prosise (Jr.)	3	Amir Carlisle (Sr.)
LT	78	**Ronnie Stanley (Jr.)**	70	Hunter Bivin (So.)
LG	56	Quenton Nelson (Fr.)	71	Alex Bars (Fr.)
C	72	**Nick Martin (Sr.)**	53	Sam Mustipher (Fr.)
RG	79	**Steve Elmer (Jr.)**	60	John Montelus (So.)
RT	68	Mike McGlinchey (So.)	71	Alex Bars (Fr.)
TE	80	Durham Smythe (So.)	13	Tyler Luatua (So.)
QB	5	**Everett Golson (Sr.)**	8	Malik Zaire (So.)
RB	25	**Tarean Folston (Jr.)**	1	Greg Bryant (Jr.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	90	**Isaac Rochell (Jr.)**	55	Jonathan Bonner (Fr.)
DT	94	**Jarron Jones (Jr.)**	99	Jerry Tillery (Fr.)
DT	91	**Sheldon Day (Sr.)**	93	Jay Hayes (So.)
DE	45	**Romeo Okwara (Sr.)**	98	Andrew Trumbetti (So.)
LB	17	**James Onwualu (Jr.)**	48	Greer Martini (So.)
LB	38	**Joe Schmidt (Sr.)**	59	Jarrett Grace (Sr.)
LB	9	**Jaylon Smith (Jr.)**	5	Nyles Morgan (So.)
CB	6	KeiVarae Russell (Sr.)	12	Devin Butler (Jr.)
CB	36	**Cole Luke (Jr.)**	21	Nick Watkins (So.)
S	22	**Elijah Shumate (Sr.)**		Avery Sebastian (Sr.)
S	10	**Max Redfield (Jr.)**	23	Drue Tranquill (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Justin Yoon (Fr.)	KR	3	Amir Carlisle (Sr.)
P	85	Tyler Newsome (Fr.)	PR	1	Greg Bryant (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Everett Golson, 427-256-3,445-14, 29 TDs
Rushing: Tarean Folston, 175 att., 889 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: William Fuller, 76 rec., 1,094, 15 TDs
Tackles: Jaylon Smith, 112
Sacks: Romeo Okwara, 4.0
Interceptions: Cole Luke, 4

*Indicates number of returning starters • **BOLD** indicates returning starters

Tom Lynn

2015 FBS COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SCHEDULES

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE (7-6, 4-4)
Chestnut Hill, MA

Sept.	5	Maine
Sept.	12	Howard
Sept.	18	Florida State
Sept.	26	Northern Illinois
Oct.	3	at Duke
Oct.	10	Wake Forest
Oct.	17	at Clemson
Oct.	24	at Louisville
Oct.	31	Virginia Tech
Nov.	7	NC State
Nov.	21	vs. Notre Dame#
Nov.	28	at Syracuse

#Boston, MA

CLEMSON (10-3, 6-2)
Clemson, SC

Sept.	5	Wofford
Sept.	12	Appalachian State
Sept.	17	at Louisville
Oct.	3	Notre Dame
Oct.	10	Georgia Tech
Oct.	17	Boston College
Oct.	24	at Miami
Oct.	31	at NC State
Nov.	7	Florida State
Nov.	14	at Syracuse
Nov.	21	Wake Forest
Nov.	28	at South Carolina

DUKE (9-4, 5-3)
Durham, NC

Sept.	3	at Tulane
Sept.	12	NC Central
Sept.	19	Northwestern
Sept.	26	Georgia Tech
Oct.	3	Boston College
Oct.	10	at Army
Oct.	24	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	31	Miami
Nov.	7	at North Carolina
Nov.	14	Pittsburgh
Nov.	21	at Virginia
Nov.	28	at Wake Forest

FLORIDA STATE (13-1, 8-0)
Tallahassee, FL

Sept.	5	Texas State
Sept.	12	South Florida
Sept.	18	at Boston College
Oct.	3	at Wake Forest
Oct.	10	Miami
Oct.	17	Louisville
Oct.	24	at Georgia Tech
Oct.	31	Syracuse
Nov.	7	at Clemson
Nov.	14	NC State
Nov.	21	Chattanooga
Nov.	28	at Florida

GEORGIA TECH (11-3, 6-2)
Atlanta, GA

Sept.	3	Alcorn State
Sept.	12	Tulane
Sept.	19	at Notre Dame
Sept.	26	at Duke
Oct.	3	North Carolina
Oct.	10	at Clemson
Oct.	17	Pittsburgh
Oct.	24	Florida State
Oct.	31	at Virginia
Nov.	12	Virginia Tech
Nov.	21	at Miami
Nov.	28	Georgia

LOUISVILLE (9-4, 5-3)
Louisville, KY

Sept.	5	vs. Auburn #
Sept.	12	Houston
Sept.	17	Clemson
Sept.	26	Samford
Oct.	3	at NC State
Oct.	17	at Florida State
Oct.	24	Boston College
Oct.	30	at Wake Forest
Nov.	7	Syracuse
Nov.	14	Virginia
Nov.	21	at Pittsburgh
Nov.	28	at Kentucky

#Atlanta, GA

MIAMI (6-7, 3-5)
Coral Gables, FL

Sept.	5	Bethune-Cookman
Sept.	11	at Florida Atlantic
Sept.	19	Nebraska
Oct.	1	at Cincinnati
Oct.	10	at Florida State
Oct.	17	Virginia Tech
Oct.	24	Clemson
Oct.	31	at Duke
Nov.	7	Virginia
Nov.	14	at North Carolina
Nov.	21	Georgia Tech
Nov.	27	at Pittsburgh

NORTH CAROLINA (6-7, 4-4)
Chapel Hill, NC

Sept.	3	vs. South Carolina#
Sept.	12	North Carolina A&T
Sept.	19	Illinois
Sept.	26	Delaware
Oct.	3	at Georgia Tech
Oct.	17	Wake Forest
Oct.	24	Virginia
Oct.	29	at Pittsburgh
Nov.	7	Duke
Nov.	14	Miami
Nov.	21	at Virginia Tech
Nov.	28	at NC State

#Charlotte, NC

NC STATE (8-5, 3-5)
Raleigh, NC

Sept.	5	Troy
Sept.	12	Eastern Kentucky
Sept.	19	at Old Dominion
Sept.	26	at South Alabama
Oct.	3	Louisville
Oct.	9	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	24	at Wake Forest
Oct.	31	Clemson
Nov.	7	at Boston College
Nov.	14	at Florida State
Nov.	21	Syracuse
Nov.	28	North Carolina

PITTSBURGH (6-7, 4-4)
Pittsburgh, PA

Sept.	5	Youngstown State
Sept.	12	at Akron
Sept.	19	at Iowa
Oct.	3	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	10	Virginia
Oct.	17	at Georgia Tech
Oct.	24	at Syracuse
Oct.	29	North Carolina
Nov.	7	Notre Dame
Nov.	14	at Duke
Nov.	21	Louisville
Nov.	27	Miami

SYRACUSE (3-9, 1-7)
Syracuse, NY

Sept.	4	Rhode Island
Sept.	12	Wake Forest
Sept.	19	Central Michigan
Sept.	26	LSU
Oct.	10	at South Florida
Oct.	17	at Virginia
Oct.	24	Pittsburgh
Oct.	31	at Florida State
Nov.	7	at Louisville
Nov.	14	Clemson
Nov.	21	at NC State
Nov.	28	Boston College

VIRGINIA (5-7, 3-5)
Charlottesville, VA

Sept.	5	at UCLA
Sept.	12	Notre Dame
Sept.	19	William & Mary
Sept.	25	Boise State
Oct.	10	at Pittsburgh
Oct.	17	Syracuse
Oct.	24	at North Carolina
Oct.	31	Georgia Tech
Nov.	7	at Miami
Nov.	14	at Louisville
Nov.	21	Duke
Nov.	28	Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH (7-6, 3-5)
Blacksburg, VA

Sept.	7	Ohio State
Sept.	12	Furman
Sept.	19	at Purdue
Sept.	26	at East Carolina
Oct.	3	Pittsburgh
Oct.	9	NC State
Oct.	17	at Miami
Oct.	24	Duke
Oct.	31	at Boston College
Nov.	12	at Georgia Tech
Nov.	21	North Carolina
Nov.	28	at Virginia

WAKE FOREST (3-9, 1-7)
Winston-Salem, NC

Sept.	3	Elon
Sept.	12	at Syracuse
Sept.	19	at Army
Sept.	26	Indiana
Oct.	3	Florida State
Oct.	10	at Boston College
Oct.	17	at North Carolina
Oct.	24	NC State
Oct.	30	Louisville
Nov.	14	at Notre Dame
Nov.	21	at Clemson
Nov.	28	Duke

AMERICAN

CINCINNATI (9-4, 7-1)
Cincinnati, OH

Sept.	5	Alabama A&M
Sept.	12	Temple
Sept.	19	at Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	24	at Memphis
Oct.	1	Miami
Oct.	17	at BYU
Oct.	24	Connecticut
Oct.	31	UCF
Nov.	7	at Houston
Nov.	14	Tulsa
Nov.	30	at South Florida
Nov.	28	at East Carolina

CONNECTICUT (2-10, 1-7)
Storrs, CT

Sept.	3	Villanova
Sept.	12	Army
Sept.	19	at Missouri
Sept.	26	Navy
Oct.	2	at BYU
Oct.	10	at UCF
Oct.	17	South Florida
Oct.	24	at Cincinnati
Oct.	30	East Carolina
Nov.	7	at Tulane
Nov.	21	Houston
Nov.	28	at Temple

EAST CAROLINA (8-5, 5-3)
Greenville, NC

Sept.	5	Towson
Sept.	12	at Florida
Sept.	19	at Navy
Sept.	26	Virginia Tech
Oct.	3	at SMU
Oct.	10	at BYU
Oct.	17	Tulsa
Oct.	22	Temple
Oct.	30	at Connecticut
Nov.	7	South Florida
Nov.	19	at UCF

HOUSTON (8-5, 5-3)
Houston, TX

Sept.	5	Tennessee Tech
Sept.	12	at Louisville
Sept.	26	Texas State
Oct.	3	at Tulsa
Oct.	8	SMU
Oct.	16	at Tulane
Oct.	24	at UCF
Oct.	31	Vanderbilt
Nov.	7	Cincinnati
Nov.	14	Memphis
Nov.	21	at Connecticut
Nov.	27	Navy

MEMPHIS (10-3, 7-1)
Memphis, TN

Sept.	5	Missouri State
Sept.	12	at Kansas
Sept.	19	at Bowling Green
Sept.	24	Cincinnati
Oct.	2	at South Florida
Oct.	17	Ole Miss
Oct.	23	at Tulsa
Oct.	31	Tulane
Nov.	7	Navy
Nov.	14	at Houston
Nov.	21	at Temple
Nov.	28	SMU

NAVY (8-5)
Annapolis, MD

Sept.	5	Colgate
Sept.	19	East Carolina
Sept.	26	at Connecticut
Oct.	3	Air Force
Oct.	10	at Notre Dame
Oct.	24	Tulane
Oct.	31	South Florida
Nov.	7	at Memphis
Nov.	14	SMU
Nov.	21	at Tulsa
Nov.	27	at Houston
Dec.	12	vs. Army #

#Philadelphia, PA

SMU (1-11, 1-7)
Dallas, TX

Sept.	4	Baylor
Sept.	12	North Texas
Sept.	19	at TCU
Sept.	26	James Madison
Oct.	3	East Carolina
Oct.	8	at Houston
Oct.	24	at South Florida
Oct.	31	Tulsa
Nov.	6	Temple
Nov.	14	at Navy
Nov.	21	Tulane
Nov.	28	at Memphis

SOUTH FLORIDA (4-8, 3-5)
Tampa, FL

Sept.	5	Florida A&M
Sept.	12	at Florida State
Sept.	19	at Maryland
Oct.	2	Memphis
Oct.	10	Syracuse
Oct.	17	at Connecticut
Oct.	24	SMU
Oct.	31	at Navy
Nov.	7	at East Carolina
Nov.	14	Temple
Nov.	20	Cincinnati
Nov.	27	at UCF

TEMPLE (6-6, 4-4)
Philadelphia, PA

Sept.	5	Penn State
Sept.	12	at Cincinnati
Sept.	19	at Massachusetts
Oct.	2	at Charlotte
Oct.	10	Tulane
Oct.	17	UCF
Oct.	22	at East Carolina
Oct.	31	Notre Dame
Nov.	6	at SMU
Nov.	14	at South Florida
Nov.	21	Memphis
Nov.	28	Connecticut

TULANE (3-9, 2-6)
New Orleans, LA

Sept.	3	Duke
Sept.	12	at Georgia Tech
Sept.	19	Maine
Oct.	3	UCF
Oct.	10	at Temple
Oct.	16	Houston
Oct.	24	at Navy
Oct.	31	at Memphis
Nov.	7	Connecticut
Nov.	14	at Army
Nov.	21	at SMU
Nov.	28	Tulsa

TULSA (2-10, 2-6)
Tulsa, OK

Sept.	5	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	12	at New Mexico
Sept.	19	at Oklahoma
Oct.	3	Houston
Oct.	10	UL Monroe
Oct.	17	at East Carolina
Oct.	23	Memphis
Oct.	31	at SMU
Nov.	7	UCF
Nov.	14	at Cincinnati
Nov.	2	Navy
Nov.	28	at Tulane

UCF (9-4, 7-1)
Orlando, FL

Sept.	3	FIU
Sept.	12	at Stanford
Sept.	19	Furman
Sept.	26	at South Carolina
Oct.	3	at Tulane
Oct.	10	Connecticut
Oct.	17	at Temple
Oct.	24	Houston
Oct.	31	at Cincinnati
Nov.	7	at Tulsa
Nov.	19	East Carolina
Nov.	27	South Florida

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (6-7, 3-5)
Champaign, IL

Sept.	4	Kent State
Sept.	12	Western Illinois
Sept.	19	at North Carolina
Sept.	26	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	3	Nebraska
Oct.	10	at Iowa
Oct.	24	Wisconsin
Oct.	31	at Penn State
Nov.	7	at Purdue
Nov.	14	Ohio State
Nov.	21	at Minnesota
Nov.	28	vs. Northwestern #

#Chicago, IL

INDIANA (4-8, 1-7)
Bloomington, IN

Sept.	5	Southern Illinois
Sept.	12	FIU
Sept.	19	Western Kentucky
Sept.	26	at Wake Forest
Oct.	3	Ohio State
Oct.	10	at Penn State
Oct.	17	Rutgers
Oct.	24	at Michigan State
Nov.	7	Iowa
Nov.	14	Michigan
Nov.	21	at Maryland
Nov.	28	at Purdue

IOWA (7-6, 4-4)
Iowa City, IA

Sept.	5	Illinois State
Sept.	12	at Iowa State
Sept.	19	Pittsburgh
Sept.	26	North Texas
Oct.	3	at Wisconsin
Oct.	10	Illinois
Oct.	17	at Northwestern
Oct.	31	Maryland
Nov.	7	at Indiana
Nov.	14	Minnesota
Nov.	21	Purdue
Nov.	27	at Nebraska

MARYLAND (7-6, 4-4)
College Park, MD

Sept.	5	Richmond
Sept.	12	Bowling Green
Sept.	19	South Florida
Sept.	26	at West Virginia
Oct.	3	Michigan
Oct.	10	at Ohio State
Oct.	24	vs. Penn State #
Oct.	31	at Iowa
Nov.	7	Wisconsin
Nov.	14	at Michigan State
Nov.	21	Indiana
Nov.	28	at Rutgers

#Baltimore, MD

Layne Murdoch Jr.



MICHIGAN (5-7, 3-5)
Ann Arbor, MI

Sept.	3	at Utah
Sept.	12	Oregon State
Sept.	19	UNLV
Sept.	26	BYU
Oct.	3	at Maryland
Oct.	10	Northwestern
Oct.	17	Michigan State
Oct.	31	at Minnesota
Nov.	7	Rutgers
Nov.	14	at Indiana
Nov.	21	at Penn State
Nov.	28	Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (11-2, 7-1)
East Lansing, MI

Sept.	4	at Western Michigan
Sept.	12	Oregon
Sept.	19	Air Force
Sept.	26	Central Michigan
Oct.	3	Purdue
Oct.	10	at Rutgers
Oct.	17	at Michigan
Oct.	24	Indiana
Nov.	7	at Nebraska
Nov.	14	Maryland
Nov.	21	at Ohio State
Nov.	28	Penn State

MINNESOTA (8-5, 5-3)
Minneapolis, MN

Sept.	3	TCU
Sept.	12	at Colorado State
Sept.	19	Kent State
Sept.	26	Ohio
Oct.	3	at Northwestern
Oct.	10	at Purdue
Oct.	17	Nebraska
Oct.	31	Michigan
Nov.	7	at Ohio State
Nov.	14	at Iowa
Nov.	21	Illinois
Nov.	28	Wisconsin

NEBRASKA (9-4, 5-3)
Lincoln, NE

Sept.	5	BYU
Sept.	12	South Alabama
Sept.	19	at Miami
Sept.	26	Southern Miss
Oct.	3	at Illinois
Oct.	10	Wisconsin
Oct.	17	at Minnesota
Oct.	24	Northwestern
Oct.	31	at Purdue
Nov.	7	Michigan State
Nov.	14	at Rutgers
Nov.	27	Iowa

NORTHWESTERN (5-7, 3-5)
Evanston, IL

Sept.	5	Stanford
Sept.	12	Eastern Illinois
Sept.	19	at Duke
Sept.	26	Ball State
Oct.	3	Minnesota
Oct.	10	at Michigan
Oct.	17	Iowa
Oct.	24	at Nebraska
Nov.	7	Penn State
Nov.	14	Purdue
Nov.	21	at Wisconsin
Nov.	28	vs. Illinois #

#Chicago, IL

OHIO STATE (14-1, 8-0)
Columbus, OH

Sept.	7	at Virginia Tech
Sept.	12	Hawaii
Sept.	19	Northern Illinois
Sept.	26	Western Michigan
Oct.	3	at Indiana
Oct.	10	Maryland
Oct.	17	Penn State
Oct.	24	at Rutgers
Nov.	7	Minnesota
Nov.	14	at Illinois
Nov.	21	Michigan State
Nov.	28	at Michigan

PENN STATE (7-6, 2-6)
University Park, PA

Sept.	5	at Temple
Sept.	12	Buffalo
Sept.	19	Rutgers
Sept.	26	San Diego State
Oct.	3	Army
Oct.	10	Indiana
Oct.	17	at Ohio State
Oct.	24	vs. Maryland #
Oct.	31	Illinois
Nov.	7	at Northwestern
Nov.	21	Michigan
Nov.	28	at Michigan State

PURDUE (3-9, 1-7)
West Lafayette, IN

Sept.	6	at Marshall
Sept.	12	Indiana State
Sept.	19	Virginia Tech
Sept.	26	Bowling Green
Oct.	3	at Michigan State
Oct.	10	Minnesota
Oct.	17	at Wisconsin
Oct.	31	Nebraska
Nov.	7	Illinois
Nov.	14	at Northwestern
Nov.	21	at Iowa
Nov.	28	Indiana

RUTGERS (8-5, 3-5)
New Brunswick, NJ

Sept.	5	Norfolk State
Sept.	12	Washington State
Sept.	19	at Penn State
Sept.	26	Kansas
Oct.	10	Michigan State
Oct.	17	at Indiana
Oct.	24	Ohio State
Oct.	31	at Wisconsin
Nov.	7	at Michigan
Nov.	14	Nebraska
Nov.	21	at Army
Nov.	28	Maryland

WISCONSIN (11-3, 7-1)
Madison, WI

Sept.	5	vs. Alabama #
Sept.	12	Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	19	Troy
Sept.	26	Hawaii
Oct.	3	Iowa
Oct.	10	at Nebraska
Oct.	17	Purdue
Oct.	24	at Illinois
Oct.	31	Rutgers
Nov.	7	at Maryland
Nov.	21	Northwestern
Nov.	28	at Minnesota

#Arlington, TX

BIG 12

BAYLOR (11-2, 8-1)
Waco, TX

Sept.	4	at SMU
Sept.	12	Lamar
Sept.	26	Rice
Oct.	3	vs. Texas Tech #
Oct.	10	at Kansas
Oct.	17	West Virginia
Oct.	24	Iowa State
Nov.	5	at Kansas State
Nov.	14	Oklahoma
Nov.	21	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	27	at TCU
Dec.	5	Texas

#Arlington, TX

IOWA STATE (2-10, 0-9)
Ames, IA

Sept.	5	Northern Iowa
Sept.	12	Iowa
Sept.	19	at Toledo
Oct.	3	Kansas
Oct.	10	at Texas Tech
Oct.	17	TCU
Oct.	24	at Baylor
Oct.	31	Texas
Nov.	7	at Oklahoma
Nov.	14	Oklahoma State
Nov.	21	at Kansas State
Nov.	28	at West Virginia

KANSAS (3-9, 1-8)
Lawrence, KS

Sept.	5	South Dakota State
Sept.	12	Memphis
Sept.	26	at Rutgers
Oct.	3	at Iowa State
Oct.	10	Baylor
Oct.	17	Texas Tech
Oct.	24	at Oklahoma State
Oct.	31	Oklahoma
Nov.	7	at Texas
Nov.	14	at TCU
Nov.	21	West Virginia
Nov.	28	Kansas State

KANSAS STATE (9-4, 7-2)
Manhattan, KS

Sept.	5	South Dakota
Sept.	12	at UTSA
Sept.	19	Louisiana Tech
Oct.	3	at Oklahoma State
Oct.	10	TCU
Oct.	17	Oklahoma
Oct.	24	at Texas
Nov.	5	Baylor
Nov.	14	at Texas Tech
Nov.	21	Iowa State
Nov.	28	at Kansas
Dec.	5	West Virginia

OKLAHOMA (8-5, 5-4)
Norman, OK

Sept.	5	Akron
Sept.	12	at Tennessee
Sept.	19	Tulsa
Oct.	3	West Virginia
Oct.	10	vs. Texas #
Oct.	17	at Kansas State
Oct.	24	Texas Tech
Oct.	31	at Kansas
Nov.	7	Iowa State
Nov.	14	at Baylor
Nov.	21	TCU
Nov.	28	at Oklahoma State

#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (7-6, 4-5)
Stillwater, OK

Sept.	3	at Central Mich.
Sept.	12	Central Ark.
Sept.	19	UTSA
Sept.	26	at Texas
Oct.	3	Kansas State
Oct.	10	at West Virginia
Oct.	24	Kansas
Oct.	31	at Texas Tech
Nov.	7	TCU
Nov.	14	at Iowa State
Nov.	21	Baylor
Nov.	28	Oklahoma

TCU (12-1, 8-1)
Fort Worth, TX

Sept.	3	at Minnesota
Sept.	12	Stephen F. Austin
Sept.	19	SMU
Sept.	26	at Texas Tech
Oct.	3	Texas
Oct.	10	at Kansas State
Oct.	17	at Iowa State
Oct.	29	West Virginia
Nov.	7	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	14	Kansas
Nov.	21	at Oklahoma
Nov.	27	Baylor

TEXAS (6-7, 5-4)
Austin, TX

Sept.	5	at Notre Dame
Sept.	12	Rice
Sept.	19	California
Sept.	26	Oklahoma State
Oct.	3	at TCU
Oct.	10	vs. Oklahoma #
Oct.	24	Kansas State
Oct.	31	at Iowa State
Nov.	7	Kansas
Nov.	14	at West Virginia
Nov.	26	Texas Tech
Dec.	5	at Baylor

#Dallas, TX

TEXAS TECH (4-8, 2-7)
Lubbock, TX

Sept.	5	Sam Houston State
Sept.	12	UTEP
Sept.	19	at Arkansas
Sept.	26	TCU
Oct.	3	Baylor
Oct.	10	Iowa State
Oct.	17	at Kansas
Oct.	24	at Oklahoma
Oct.	31	Oklahoma State
Nov.	7	at West Virginia
Nov.	14	Kansas State
Nov.	26	at Texas

WEST VIRGINIA (7-6, 5-4)
Morgantown, WV

Sept.	5	Georgia Southern
Sept.	12	Liberty
Sept.	26	Maryland
Oct.	3	at Oklahoma
Oct.	10	Oklahoma State
Oct.	17	at Baylor
Oct.	29	at TCU
Nov.	7	Texas Tech
Nov.	14	Texas
Nov.	21	at Kansas
Nov.	28	Iowa State
Dec.	5	at Kansas State

C-USA

CHARLOTTE (5-6)
Charlotte, NC

Sept.	4	at Georgia State
Sept.	12	Presbyterian
Sept.	19	at Middle Tennessee
Sept.	26	Florida Atlantic
Oct.	2	Temple
Oct.	17	at Old Dominion
Oct.	24	Southern Miss
Oct.	31	Marshall
Nov.	7	at FIU
Nov.	14	UTSA
Nov.	21	at Kentucky
Nov.	28	at Rice

FLORIDA ATLANTIC (3-9, 2-6)
Boca Raton, FL

Sept.	5	at Tulsa
Sept.	11	Miami
Sept.	19	Buffalo
Sept.	26	at Charlotte
Oct.	10	Rice
Oct.	17	Marshall
Oct.	24	at UTEP
Oct.	31	FIU
Nov.	7	at Western Kentucky
Nov.	14	Middle Tennessee
Nov.	21	at Florida
Nov.	28	at Old Dominion

FIU (4-8, 3-5)
Miami, FL

Sept.	3	at UCF
Sept.	12	at Indiana
Sept.	19	NC Central
Sept.	26	at Louisiana Tech
Oct.	3	at Massachusetts
Oct.	10	UTEP
Oct.	17	at Middle Tennessee
Oct.	24	Old Dominion
Oct.	31	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	7	Charlotte
Nov.	14	at Marshall
Nov.	21	Western Kentucky

LOUISIANA TECH (9-5, 7-1)
Ruston, LA

Sept.	5	Southern
Sept.	10	at Western Kentucky
Sept.	19	at Kansas State
Sept.	26	FIU
Oct.	3	UL Lafayette
Oct.	10	at UTSA
Oct.	17	at Mississippi State
Oct.	24	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	30	at Rice
Nov.	7	North Texas
Nov.	21	at UTEP
Nov.	28	Southern Miss

MARSHALL (13-1, 7-1)
Huntington, WV

Sept.	6	Purdue
Sept.	12	at Ohio
Sept.	19	Norfolk State
Sept.	26	at Kent State
Oct.	3	Old Dominion
Oct.	9	Southern Miss
Oct.	17	at Florida Atlantic
Oct.	24	North Texas
Oct.	31	at Charlotte
Nov.	7	at Middle Tennessee
Nov.	14	FIU
Nov.	27	at Western Kentucky

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (6-6, 5-3)
Murfreesboro, TN

Sept.	5	Jackson State
Sept.	12	at Alabama
Sept.	19	Charlotte
Sept.	26	at Illinois
Oct.	3	Vanderbilt
Oct.	10	at Western Kentucky
Oct.	17	FIU
Oct.	24	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	7	Marshall
Nov.	14	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	21	North Texas
Nov.	28	at UTSA

NORTH TEXAS (4-8, 2-6)
Denton, TX

Sept.	12	at SMU
Sept.	19	Rice
Sept.	26	at Iowa
Oct.	3	at Southern Miss
Oct.	10	Portland State
Oct.	15	Western Kentucky
Oct.	24	at Marshall
Oct.	31	UTSA
Nov.	7	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	14	at Tennessee
Nov.	21	at Middle Tennessee
Nov.	28	UTEP

OLD DOMINION (6-6, 4-4)
Norfolk, VA

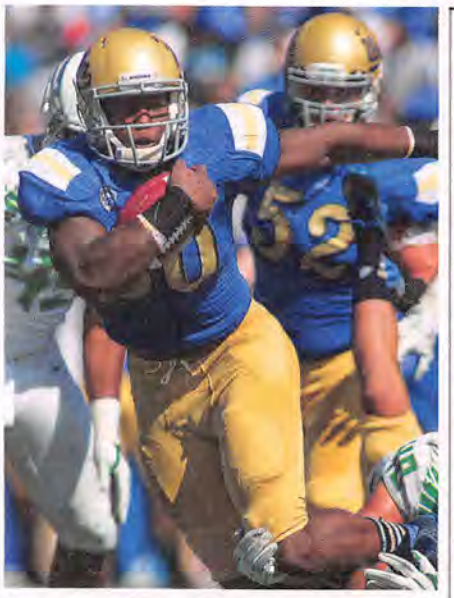
Sept.	5	at Eastern Michigan
Sept.	12	Norfolk State
Sept.	19	NC State
Sept.	26	Appalachian State
Oct.	3	at Marshall
Oct.	17	Charlotte
Oct.	24	at FIU
Oct.	31	Western Kentucky
Nov.	7	at UTSA
Nov.	14	UTEP
Nov.	21	at Southern Miss
Nov.	28	Florida Atlantic

RICE (8-5, 5-3)
Houston, TX

Sept.	5	Wagner
Sept.	12	at Texas
Sept.	19	at North Texas
Sept.	26	at Baylor
Oct.	3	Western Kentucky
Oct.	10	at Florida Atlantic
Oct.	24	Army
Oct.	30	Louisiana Tech
Nov.	6	at UTEP
Nov.	14	Southern Miss
Nov.	21	at UTSA
Nov.	28	Charlotte

SOUTHERN MISS (3-9, 1-7)
Hattiesburg, MS

Sept.	5	Mississippi State
Sept.	12	Austin Peay
Sept.	19	at Texas State
Sept.	26	at Nebraska
Oct.	3	North Texas
Oct.	9	at Marshall
Oct.	17	UTSA
Oct.	24	at Charlotte
Oct.	31	UTEP
Nov.	14	at Rice
Nov.	21	Old Dominion
Nov.	28	at Louisiana Tech



UTEP (7-6, 5-3)
El Paso, TX
Sept. 5 at Arkansas
Sept. 12 at Texas Tech
Sept. 19 at New Mexico State
Sept. 26 Incarnate Word
Oct. 3 UTSA
Oct. 10 at FIU
Oct. 24 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 31 at Southern Miss
Nov. 6 Rice
Nov. 14 at Old Dominion
Nov. 21 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 28 at North Texas

UTSA (4-8, 3-5)
San Antonio, TX
Sept. 3 at Arizona
Sept. 12 Kansas State
Sept. 19 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 26 Colorado State
Oct. 3 at UTEP
Oct. 10 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 17 at Southern Miss
Oct. 31 at North Texas
Nov. 7 Old Dominion
Nov. 14 at Charlotte
Nov. 21 Rice
Nov. 28 Middle Tennessee

WESTERN KENTUCKY (8-5, 4-4)
Bowling Green, KY
Sept. 5 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 10 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 19 at Indiana
Sept. 26 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 3 at Rice
Oct. 10 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 15 at North Texas
Oct. 24 at LSU
Oct. 31 at Old Dominion
Nov. 7 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 21 at FIU
Nov. 27 Marshall

MAC

AKRON (5-7, 3-5)
Akron, OH
Sept. 5 at Oklahoma
Sept. 12 Pittsburgh
Sept. 19 Savannah State
Sept. 26 at UL Lafayette
Oct. 3 Ohio
Oct. 10 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 17 at Bowling Green
Oct. 31 Central Michigan
Nov. 7 at Massachusetts
Nov. 14 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 21 Buffalo
Nov. 27 Kent State

BALL STATE (5-7, 4-4)
Muncie, IN
Sept. 3 VMI
Sept. 12 at Texas A&M
Sept. 19 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 26 at Northwestern
Oct. 3 Toledo
Oct. 10 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 17 Georgia State
Oct. 24 Central Michigan
Oct. 31 Massachusetts
Nov. 5 at Western Michigan
Nov. 17 at Ohio
Nov. 24 Bowling Green

BOWLING GREEN (8-6, 5-3)
Bowling Green, OH
Sept. 5 vs. Tennessee #
Sept. 12 at Maryland
Sept. 19 Memphis
Sept. 26 at Purdue
Oct. 3 at Buffalo
Oct. 10 Massachusetts
Oct. 17 Akron
Oct. 24 at Kent State
Nov. 4 Ohio
Nov. 11 at Western Michigan
Nov. 17 Toledo
Nov. 24 at Ball State
#Nashville, TN

BUFFALO (5-6, 3-4)
Buffalo, NY
Sept. 5 Albany
Sept. 12 at Penn State
Sept. 19 at Florida Atlantic
Sept. 26 Nevada
Oct. 3 Bowling Green
Oct. 17 at Central Michigan
Oct. 24 Ohio
Oct. 29 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 5 at Kent State
Nov. 11 Northern Illinois
Nov. 21 at Akron
Nov. 27 Massachusetts

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (7-6, 5-3)
Mt. Pleasant, MI
Sept. 3 Oklahoma State
Sept. 12 Monmouth
Sept. 19 at Syracuse
Sept. 26 at Michigan State
Oct. 3 Northern Illinois
Oct. 10 at Western Michigan
Oct. 17 Buffalo
Oct. 24 at Ball State
Oct. 31 at Akron
Nov. 10 Toledo
Nov. 18 at Kent State
Nov. 27 Eastern Michigan

EASTERN MICHIGAN (2-10, 1-7)
Ypsilanti, MI
Sept. 5 Old Dominion
Sept. 12 at Wyoming
Sept. 19 Ball State
Sept. 26 Army
Oct. 3 at LSU
Oct. 10 Akron
Oct. 17 at Toledo
Oct. 24 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 29 Western Michigan
Nov. 7 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 14 Massachusetts
Nov. 27 at Central Michigan

KENT STATE (2-9, 1-6)
Kent, OH
Sept. 4 at Illinois
Sept. 12 Delaware State
Sept. 19 at Minnesota
Sept. 26 Marshall
Oct. 3 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 10 at Toledo
Oct. 17 at Massachusetts
Oct. 24 Bowling Green
Nov. 5 Buffalo
Nov. 10 at Ohio
Nov. 18 Central Michigan
Nov. 27 at Akron

MASSACHUSETTS (3-9, 3-5)
Amherst, MA
Sept. 12 at Colorado
Sept. 19 Temple
Sept. 26 at Notre Dame
Oct. 3 FIU
Oct. 10 at Bowling Green
Oct. 17 Kent State
Oct. 24 Toledo
Oct. 31 at Ball State
Nov. 7 Akron
Nov. 14 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 21 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 27 at Buffalo

MIAMI (OHIO) (2-10, 2-6)
Oxford, OH
Sept. 5 Presbyterian
Sept. 12 at Wisconsin
Sept. 19 Cincinnati
Sept. 26 at Western Kentucky
Oct. 3 at Kent State
Oct. 10 at Ohio
Oct. 17 Northern Illinois
Oct. 24 at Western Michigan
Oct. 29 Buffalo
Nov. 7 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 14 Akron
Nov. 21 at Massachusetts

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (11-3, 7-1)
Dekalb, IL
Sept. 5 UNLV
Sept. 12 Murray State
Sept. 19 at Ohio State
Sept. 26 at Boston College
Oct. 3 at Central Michigan
Oct. 10 Ball State
Oct. 17 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 24 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 3 at Toledo
Nov. 11 at Buffalo
Nov. 18 Western Michigan
Nov. 24 Ohio

OHIO (6-6, 4-4)
Athens, OH
Sept. 3 at Idaho
Sept. 12 Marshall
Sept. 19 SE Louisiana
Sept. 26 at Minnesota
Oct. 3 at Akron
Oct. 10 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 17 Western Michigan
Oct. 24 at Buffalo
Nov. 4 at Bowling Green
Nov. 10 Kent State
Nov. 17 Ball State
Nov. 24 at Northern Illinois

TOLEDO (9-4, 7-1)
Toledo, OH
Sept. 3 Stony Brook
Sept. 12 at Arkansas
Sept. 19 Iowa State
Sept. 26 Arkansas State
Oct. 3 at Ball State
Oct. 10 Kent State
Oct. 17 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 24 at Massachusetts
Nov. 3 Northern Illinois
Nov. 10 at Central Michigan
Nov. 17 at Bowling Green
Nov. 27 Western Michigan

WESTERN MICHIGAN (8-5, 6-2)
Kalamazoo, MI
Sept. 4 Michigan State
Sept. 12 at Georgia Southern
Sept. 19 Murray State
Sept. 26 at Ohio State
Oct. 10 Central Michigan
Oct. 17 at Ohio
Oct. 24 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 29 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 5 Ball State
Nov. 11 Bowling Green
Nov. 18 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 27 at Toledo

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE (10-3, 5-3)
Colorado Springs, CO
Sept. 5 Morgan State
Sept. 12 San Jose State
Sept. 19 at Michigan State
Oct. 3 at Navy
Oct. 10 Wyoming
Oct. 17 at Colorado State
Oct. 24 Fresno State
Oct. 31 at Hawaii
Nov. 7 Army
Nov. 14 Utah State
Nov. 20 at Boise State
Nov. 28 at New Mexico

BOISE STATE (12-2, 7-1)
Boise, ID
Sept. 4 Washington
Sept. 12 at BYU
Sept. 18 Idaho State
Sept. 25 at Virginia
Oct. 3 Hawaii
Oct. 10 at Colorado State
Oct. 16 at Utah State
Oct. 24 Wyoming
Oct. 31 at UNLV
Nov. 14 New Mexico
Nov. 20 Air Force
Nov. 27 at San Jose State

COLORADO STATE (10-3, 6-2)
Fort Collins, CO
Sept. 5 Savannah State
Sept. 12 Minnesota
Sept. 19 vs. Colorado #
Sept. 26 at UTSA
Oct. 3 at Utah State
Oct. 10 Boise State
Oct. 17 Air Force
Oct. 31 San Diego State
Nov. 7 at Wyoming
Nov. 14 UNLV
Nov. 21 at New Mexico
Nov. 28 at Fresno State
#Denver, CO

FRESNO STATE (6-8, 5-3)
Fresno, CA
Sept. 3 Abilene Christian
Sept. 12 at Ole Miss
Sept. 19 Utah
Sept. 26 at San Jose State
Oct. 3 at San Diego State
Oct. 10 Utah State
Oct. 16 UNLV
Oct. 24 at Air Force
Nov. 6 Nevada
Nov. 14 at Hawaii
Nov. 21 at BYU
Nov. 28 Colorado State

HAWAII (4-9, 3-5)
Honolulu, HI
Sept. 3 Colorado
Sept. 12 at Ohio State
Sept. 19 UC Davis
Sept. 26 at Wisconsin
Oct. 3 at Boise State
Oct. 10 San Diego State
Oct. 17 at New Mexico
Oct. 24 at Nevada
Oct. 31 Air Force
Nov. 7 at UNLV
Nov. 14 Fresno State
Nov. 21 San Jose State
Nov. 28 UL Monroe

NEVADA (7-6, 4-4)
Reno, NV
Sept. 3 UC Davis
Sept. 12 Arizona
Sept. 19 at Texas A&M
Sept. 26 at Buffalo
Oct. 3 UNLV
Oct. 10 New Mexico
Oct. 17 at Wyoming
Oct. 24 Hawaii
Nov. 6 at Fresno State
Nov. 14 San Jose State
Nov. 21 at Utah State
Nov. 28 at San Diego State

NEW MEXICO (4-8, 2-6)
Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 5 Mississippi Valley State
Sept. 12 Tulsa
Sept. 18 at Arizona State
Sept. 26 at Wyoming
Oct. 3 New Mexico State
Oct. 10 at Nevada
Oct. 17 Hawaii
Oct. 24 at San José State
Nov. 7 Utah State
Nov. 14 at Boise State
Nov. 21 Colorado State
Nov. 28 Air Force

SAN DIEGO STATE (7-6, 5-3)
San Diego, CA
Sept. 5 San Diego
Sept. 12 at California
Sept. 19 South Alabama
Sept. 26 at Penn State
Oct. 3 Fresno State
Oct. 10 at Hawaii
Oct. 17 at San José State
Oct. 23 Utah State
Oct. 31 at Colorado State
Nov. 14 Wyoming
Nov. 21 at UNLV
Nov. 28 Nevada

SAN JOSE STATE (3-9, 2-6)
San Jose, CA
Sept. 3 New Hampshire
Sept. 12 at Air Force
Sept. 19 at Oregon State
Sept. 26 Fresno State
Oct. 3 at Auburn
Oct. 10 at UNLV
Oct. 17 San Diego State
Oct. 24 New Mexico
Nov. 6 BYU
Nov. 14 at Nevada
Nov. 21 at Hawaii
Nov. 27 Boise State

UNLV (2-11, 1-7)
Las Vegas, NV
Sept. 5 at Northern Illinois
Sept. 11 UCLA
Sept. 19 at Michigan
Sept. 26 Idaho State
Oct. 3 at Nevada
Oct. 10 San Jose State
Oct. 16 at Fresno State
Oct. 31 Boise State
Nov. 7 Hawaii
Nov. 14 at Colorado State
Nov. 21 San Diego State
Nov. 28 at Wyoming

UTAH STATE (10-4, 6-2)
Logan, UT
Sept. 3 Southern Utah
Sept. 12 at Utah
Sept. 19 at Washington
Oct. 3 Colorado State
Oct. 10 at Fresno State
Oct. 16 Boise State
Oct. 23 at San Diego State
Oct. 30 Wyoming
Nov. 7 at New Mexico
Nov. 14 at Air Force
Nov. 21 Nevada
Nov. 28 BYU

WYOMING (4-8, 2-6)
Laramie, WY
Sept. 5 North Dakota
Sept. 12 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 19 at Washington State
Sept. 26 New Mexico
Oct. 3 at Appalachian State
Oct. 10 at Air Force
Oct. 17 Nevada
Oct. 24 at Boise State
Oct. 30 at Utah State
Nov. 7 Colorado State
Nov. 14 at San Diego State
Nov. 28 UNLV

PAC-12

ARIZONA (10-4, 7-2)
Tucson, AZ
Sept. 3 UTSA
Sept. 12 at Nevada
Sept. 19 Northern Arizona
Sept. 26 UCLA
Oct. 3 at Stanford
Oct. 10 Oregon State
Oct. 17 at Colorado
Oct. 24 Washington State
Oct. 31 at Washington
Nov. 7 at USC
Nov. 14 Utah
Nov. 21 at Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (10-3, 6-3)
Tempe, AZ
Sept. 5 vs. Texas A&M #
Sept. 12 Cal Poly
Sept. 18 New Mexico
Sept. 26 USC
Oct. 3 at UCLA
Oct. 10 Colorado
Oct. 17 at Utah
Oct. 29 Oregon
Nov. 7 at Washington State
Nov. 14 Washington
Nov. 21 Arizona
Nov. 28 at California
#Houston, TX

CALIFORNIA (5-7, 3-6)
Berkeley, CA
Sept. 5 Grambling State
Sept. 12 San Diego State
Sept. 19 at Texas
Sept. 26 at Washington
Oct. 3 Washington State
Oct. 10 at Utah
Oct. 22 at UCLA
Oct. 31 USC
Nov. 7 at Oregon
Nov. 14 Oregon State
Nov. 21 at Stanford
Nov. 28 Arizona State

COLORADO (2-10, 0-9)
Boulder, CO
Sept. 3 at Hawaii
Sept. 12 Massachusetts
Sept. 19 vs. Colorado State #
Sept. 26 Nicholls State
Oct. 3 Oregon
Oct. 10 at Arizona State
Oct. 17 Arizona
Oct. 24 at Oregon State
Oct. 31 at UCLA
Nov. 7 Stanford
Nov. 13 USC
Nov. 21 at Washington State
Nov. 28 at Utah
#Denver, CO

Peter Brouillet

OREGON (13-2, 8-1)
Eugene, OR
Sept. 5 Eastern Washington
Sept. 12 at Michigan State
Sept. 19 Georgia State
Sept. 26 Utah
Oct. 3 at Colorado
Oct. 10 Washington State
Oct. 17 at Washington
Oct. 29 at Arizona State
Nov. 7 California
Nov. 14 at Stanford
Nov. 21 USC
Nov. 27 Oregon State

OREGON STATE (5-7, 2-7)
Corvallis, OR
Sept. 4 Weber State
Sept. 12 at Michigan
Sept. 19 San Jose State
Sept. 25 Stanford
Oct. 10 at Arizona
Oct. 17 at Washington State
Oct. 24 Colorado
Oct. 31 at Utah
Nov. 7 UCLA
Nov. 14 at California
Nov. 21 Washington
Nov. 27 at Oregon

STANFORD (8-5, 5-4)
Stanford, CA
Sept. 5 at Northwestern
Sept. 12 UCF
Sept. 19 at USC
Sept. 25 at Oregon State
Oct. 3 Arizona
Oct. 15 UCLA
Oct. 24 Washington
Oct. 31 at Washington State
Nov. 7 at Colorado
Nov. 14 Oregon
Nov. 21 California
Nov. 28 Notre Dame

UCLA (10-3, 6-3)
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 5 Virginia
Sept. 12 at UNLV
Sept. 19 BYU
Sept. 26 at Arizona
Oct. 3 Arizona State
Oct. 15 at Stanford
Oct. 22 California
Oct. 31 Colorado
Nov. 7 at Oregon State
Nov. 14 Washington State
Nov. 21 at Utah
Nov. 28 at USC

USC (9-4, 6-3)
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 5 Arkansas State
Sept. 12 Idaho
Sept. 19 Stanford
Sept. 26 at Arizona State
Oct. 8 Washington
Oct. 17 at Notre Dame
Oct. 24 Utah
Oct. 31 at California
Nov. 7 Arizona
Nov. 13 at Colorado
Nov. 21 at Oregon
Nov. 28 UCLA

UTAH (9-4, 5-4)
Salt Lake City, UT
Sept. 3 Michigan
Sept. 11 Utah State
Sept. 19 at Fresno State
Sept. 26 at Oregon
Oct. 10 California
Oct. 17 Arizona State
Oct. 24 at USC
Oct. 31 Oregon State
Nov. 7 at Washington
Nov. 14 at Arizona
Nov. 21 UCLA
Nov. 28 Colorado

WASHINGTON (8-6, 4-5)
Seattle, WA
Sept. 4 at Boise State
Sept. 12 Sacramento State
Sept. 19 Utah State
Sept. 26 California
Oct. 8 at USC
Oct. 17 Oregon
Oct. 24 at Stanford
Oct. 31 Arizona
Nov. 7 Utah
Nov. 14 at Arizona State
Nov. 21 at Oregon State
Nov. 27 Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE (3-9, 2-7)
Pullman, WA
Sept. 5 Portland State
Sept. 12 at Rutgers
Sept. 19 Wyoming
Oct. 3 at California
Oct. 10 at Oregon
Oct. 17 Oregon State
Oct. 24 at Arizona
Oct. 31 Stanford
Nov. 7 Arizona State
Nov. 14 at UCLA
Nov. 21 Colorado
Nov. 27 at Washington

SEC

ALABAMA (12-2, 7-1)
Tuscaloosa, AL
Sept. 5 vs. Wisconsin #
Sept. 12 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 19 Ole Miss
Sept. 26 UL Monroe
Oct. 3 at Georgia
Oct. 10 Arkansas
Oct. 17 at Texas A&M
Oct. 24 Tennessee
Nov. 7 LSU
Nov. 14 at Mississippi State
Nov. 21 Charleston Southern
Nov. 28 at Auburn
#Arlington, TX

ARKANSAS (7-6, 2-6)
Fayetteville, AR
Sept. 5 UTEP
Sept. 12 vs. Toledo #
Sept. 19 Texas Tech
Sept. 26 vs. Texas A&M %
Oct. 3 at Tennessee
Oct. 10 at Alabama
Oct. 24 Auburn
Oct. 31 Tennessee-Martin
Nov. 7 at Ole Miss
Nov. 14 at LSU
Nov. 21 Mississippi State
Nov. 28 Missouri
#Little Rock, AR %Arlington, TX

AUBURN (8-5, 4-4)
Auburn, AL
Sept. 5 vs. Louisville #
Sept. 12 Jacksonville State
Sept. 19 at LSU
Sept. 26 Mississippi State
Oct. 3 San Jose State
Oct. 15 at Kentucky
Oct. 24 at Arkansas
Oct. 31 Ole Miss
Nov. 7 at Texas A&M
Nov. 14 Georgia
Nov. 21 Idaho
Nov. 28 Alabama
#Atlanta, GA

FLORIDA (7-5, 4-4)
Gainesville, FL
Sept. 5 New Mexico State
Sept. 12 East Carolina
Sept. 19 at Kentucky
Sept. 26 Tennessee
Oct. 3 Ole Miss
Oct. 10 at Missouri
Oct. 17 at LSU
Oct. 31 vs. Georgia #
Nov. 7 Vanderbilt
Nov. 14 at South Carolina
Nov. 21 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 28 Florida State

GEORGIA (10-3, 6-2)
Athens, GA
Sept. 5 UL Monroe
Sept. 12 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 19 South Carolina
Sept. 26 Southern
Oct. 3 Alabama
Oct. 10 at Tennessee
Oct. 17 Missouri
Oct. 31 vs. Florida #
Nov. 7 Kentucky
Nov. 14 at Auburn
Nov. 21 Georgia Southern
Nov. 28 at Georgia Tech
#Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (5-7, 2-6)
Lexington, KY
Sept. 5 UL Lafayette
Sept. 12 at South Carolina
Sept. 19 Florida
Sept. 26 Missouri
Oct. 3 Eastern Kentucky
Oct. 15 Auburn
Oct. 24 at Mississippi State
Oct. 31 Tennessee
Nov. 7 at Georgia
Nov. 14 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 21 Charlotte
Nov. 28 Louisville

LSU (8-5, 4-4)
Baton Rouge, LA
Sept. 5 McNeese State
Sept. 12 at Mississippi State
Sept. 19 Auburn
Sept. 26 at Syracuse
Oct. 3 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 10 at South Carolina
Oct. 17 Florida
Oct. 24 Western Kentucky
Nov. 7 at Alabama
Nov. 14 Arkansas
Nov. 21 at Ole Miss
Nov. 28 Texas A&M

MISSISSIPPI STATE (10-3, 6-2)
Starkville, MS
Sept. 5 at Southern Miss
Sept. 12 LSU
Sept. 19 Northwestern State
Sept. 26 at Auburn
Oct. 3 at Texas A&M
Oct. 10 Troy
Oct. 17 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 24 Kentucky
Nov. 5 at Missouri
Nov. 14 Alabama
Nov. 21 at Arkansas
Nov. 28 Ole Miss

MISSOURI (11-3, 7-1)
Columbia, MO
Sept. 5 SE Missouri State
Sept. 12 at Arkansas State
Sept. 19 Connecticut
Sept. 26 at Kentucky
Oct. 3 South Carolina
Oct. 10 Florida
Oct. 17 at Georgia
Oct. 24 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 5 Mississippi State
Nov. 14 vs. BYU #
Nov. 21 Tennessee
Nov. 28 at Arkansas
#Kansas City, MO

OLE MISS (9-4, 5-3)
Oxford, MS
Sept. 5 Tennessee-Martin
Sept. 12 Fresno State
Sept. 19 at Alabama
Sept. 26 Vanderbilt
Oct. 3 at Florida
Oct. 10 New Mexico State
Oct. 17 at Memphis
Oct. 24 Texas A&M
Oct. 31 at Auburn
Nov. 7 Arkansas
Nov. 21 LSU
Nov. 28 at Mississippi State

SOUTH CAROLINA (7-6, 3-5)
Columbia, SC
Sept. 3 vs. North Carolina #
Sept. 12 Kentucky
Sept. 19 at Georgia
Sept. 26 UCF
Oct. 3 at Missouri
Oct. 10 LSU
Oct. 17 Vanderbilt
Oct. 31 at Texas A&M
Nov. 7 at Tennessee
Nov. 14 Florida
Nov. 21 Citadel
Nov. 28 Clemson
#Charlotte, NC

TENNESSEE (7-6, 3-5)
Knoxville, TN
Sept. 5 vs. Bowling Green #
Sept. 12 Oklahoma
Sept. 19 Western Carolina
Sept. 26 at Florida
Oct. 3 Arkansas
Oct. 10 Georgia
Oct. 24 at Alabama
Oct. 31 at Kentucky
Nov. 7 South Carolina
Nov. 14 North Texas
Nov. 21 at Missouri
Nov. 28 Vanderbilt
#Nashville, TN

TEXAS A&M (8-5, 3-5)
College Station, TX
Sept. 5 vs. Arizona State #
Sept. 12 Ball State
Sept. 19 Nevada
Sept. 26 vs. Arkansas %
Oct. 3 Mississippi State
Oct. 17 Alabama
Oct. 24 at Ole Miss
Oct. 31 South Carolina
Nov. 7 Auburn
Nov. 14 Western Carolina
Nov. 21 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 28 at LSU
#Houston, TX %Arlington, TX

VANDERBILT (3-9, 0-8)
Nashville, TN
Sept. 5 Western Kentucky
Sept. 12 Georgia
Sept. 19 Austin Peay
Sept. 26 at Ole Miss
Oct. 3 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 17 at South Carolina
Oct. 24 Missouri
Oct. 31 at Houston
Nov. 7 at Florida
Nov. 14 Kentucky
Nov. 21 Texas A&M
Nov. 28 at Tennessee

SUN BELT

APPALACHIAN STATE (7-5, 6-2)
Boone, NC
Sept. 5 Howard
Sept. 12 at Clemson
Sept. 26 at Old Dominion
Oct. 3 Wyoming
Oct. 10 at Georgia State
Oct. 17 at UL Monroe
Oct. 22 Georgia Southern
Oct. 31 Troy
Nov. 5 Arkansas State
Nov. 14 at Idaho
Nov. 28 UL Lafayette
Dec. 5 at South Alabama

ARKANSAS STATE (7-6, 5-3)
Jonesboro, AR
Sept. 5 at USC
Sept. 12 Missouri
Sept. 19 Missouri State
Sept. 26 at Toledo
Oct. 3 Idaho
Oct. 13 at South Alabama
Oct. 20 UL Lafayette
Oct. 31 Georgia State
Nov. 5 at Appalachian State
Nov. 14 at UL Monroe
Nov. 28 at New Mexico State
Dec. 5 Texas State

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (9-3, 8-0)
Statesboro, GA
Sept. 5 at West Virginia
Sept. 12 Western Michigan
Sept. 19 The Citadel
Sept. 26 at Idaho
Oct. 3 at UL Monroe
Oct. 17 New Mexico State
Oct. 22 at Appalachian State
Oct. 29 Texas State
Nov. 14 at Troy
Nov. 21 at Georgia
Nov. 28 South Alabama
Dec. 5 Georgia State

GEORGIA STATE (1-11, 0-8)
Atlanta, GA
Sept. 4 Charlotte
Sept. 12 at New Mexico State
Sept. 19 at Oregon
Oct. 3 Liberty
Oct. 10 Appalachian State
Oct. 17 at Ball State
Oct. 31 at Arkansas State
Nov. 7 UL Lafayette
Nov. 14 at Texas State
Nov. 21 South Alabama
Nov. 27 Troy
Dec. 5 at Georgia Southern

IDAHO (1-10, 1-7)
Moscow, ID
Sept. 3 Ohio
Sept. 12 at USC
Sept. 19 Wofford
Sept. 26 Georgia Southern
Oct. 3 at Arkansas State
Oct. 17 at Troy
Oct. 24 UL Monroe
Oct. 31 at New Mexico State
Nov. 7 at South Alabama
Nov. 14 Appalachian State
Nov. 21 at Auburn
Nov. 28 Texas State

UL LAFAYETTE (9-4, 7-1)
Lafayette, LA
Sept. 5 at Kentucky
Sept. 12 Northwestern State
Sept. 26 Akron
Oct. 3 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 10 Texas State
Oct. 20 at Arkansas State
Oct. 31 UL Monroe
Nov. 7 at Georgia State
Nov. 12 at South Alabama
Nov. 21 New Mexico State
Nov. 28 at Appalachian State
Dec. 5 Troy

UL MONROE (4-8, 3-5)
Monroe, LA
Sept. 5 at Georgia
Sept. 12 Nicholls State
Sept. 26 at Alabama
Oct. 3 Georgia Southern
Oct. 10 at Tulsa
Oct. 17 Appalachian State
Oct. 24 at Idaho
Oct. 31 at UL Lafayette
Nov. 7 at Troy
Nov. 14 Arkansas State
Nov. 19 at Texas State
Nov. 28 at Hawaii
Dec. 5 New Mexico State

NEW MEXICO STATE (2-10, 1-7)
Las Cruces, NM
Sept. 5 at Florida
Sept. 12 Georgia State
Sept. 19 UTEP
Oct. 3 at New Mexico
Oct. 10 at Ole Miss
Oct. 17 at Georgia Southern
Oct. 24 Troy
Oct. 31 Idaho
Nov. 7 at Texas State
Nov. 21 at UL Lafayette
Nov. 28 Arkansas State
Dec. 5 at UL Monroe

SOUTH ALABAMA (6-7, 5-3)
Mobile, AL
Sept. 5 Gardner Webb
Sept. 12 at Nebraska
Sept. 19 at San Diego State
Sept. 26 NC State
Oct. 3 at Troy
Oct. 13 Arkansas State
Oct. 24 at Texas State
Nov. 7 Idaho
Nov. 12 UL Lafayette
Nov. 21 at Georgia State
Nov. 28 at Georgia Southern
Dec. 5 Appalachian State

TEXAS STATE (7-5, 5-3)
San Marcos, TX
Sept. 5 at Florida State
Sept. 12 Prairie View A&M
Sept. 19 Southern Miss
Sept. 26 at Houston
Oct. 10 at UL Lafayette
Oct. 24 South Alabama
Oct. 29 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 7 New Mexico State
Nov. 14 Georgia State
Nov. 19 UL Monroe
Nov. 28 at Idaho
Dec. 5 at Arkansas State

TROY (3-9, 3-5)
Troy, AL
Sept. 5 at NC State
Sept. 12 Charleston Southern
Sept. 19 at Wisconsin
Oct. 3 South Alabama
Oct. 10 at Mississippi State
Oct. 17 Idaho
Oct. 24 at New Mexico State
Oct. 31 at Appalachian State
Nov. 7 UL Monroe
Nov. 14 Georgia Southern
Nov. 27 at Georgia State
Dec. 5 at UL Lafayette

INDEPENDENTS

ARMY (4-8)
West Point, NY
Sept. 4 Fordham
Sept. 12 at Connecticut
Sept. 19 Wake Forest
Sept. 26 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 3 at Penn State
Oct. 10 Duke
Oct. 17 Bucknell
Oct. 24 at Rice
Nov. 7 at Air Force
Nov. 14 Tulane
Nov. 21 Rutgers
Dec. 12 vs. Navy #
#Philadelphia, PA

BYU (8-5)
Provo, UT
Sept. 5 at Nebraska
Sept. 12 Boise State
Sept. 19 at UCLA
Sept. 26 at Michigan
Oct. 2 Connecticut
Oct. 10 East Carolina
Oct. 17 Cincinnati
Oct. 24 Wagner
Nov. 6 at San Jose State
Nov. 14 vs. Missouri #
Nov. 21 Fresno State
Nov. 28 at Utah State
#Kansas City, MO

NOTRE DAME (8-5)
South Bend, IN
Sept. 5 Texas
Sept. 12 at Virginia
Sept. 19 Georgia Tech
Sept. 26 Massachusetts
Oct. 3 at Clemson
Oct. 10 Navy
Oct. 17 USC
Oct. 31 at Temple
Nov. 7 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 14 Wake Forest
Nov. 21 vs. Boston College #
Nov. 28 at Stanford
#Boston, MA

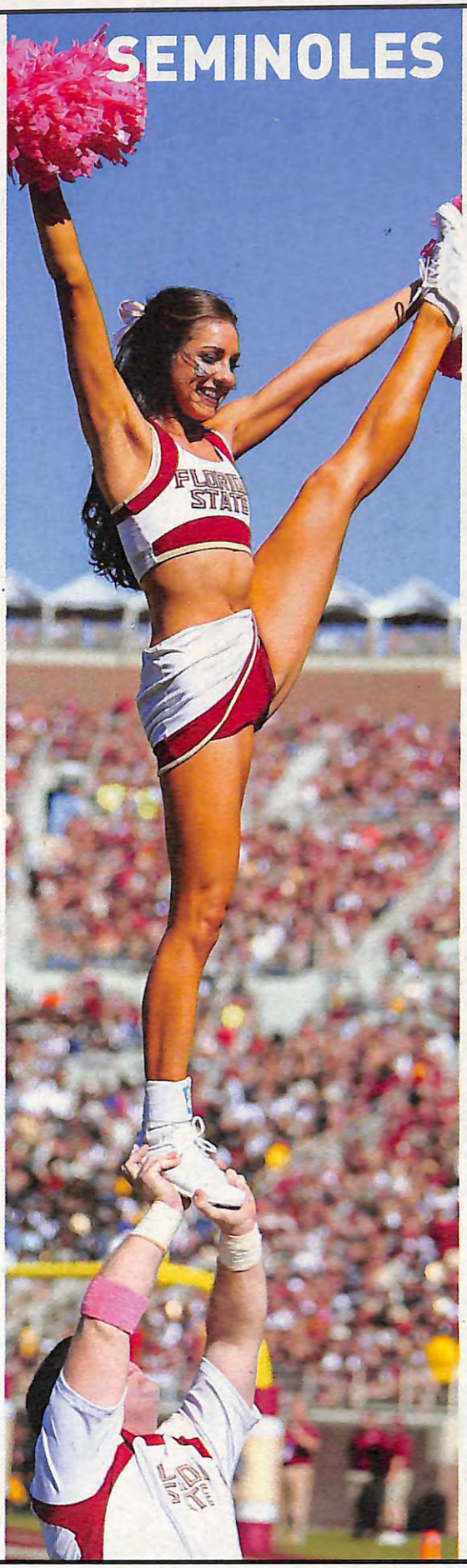
Sideline Spirit

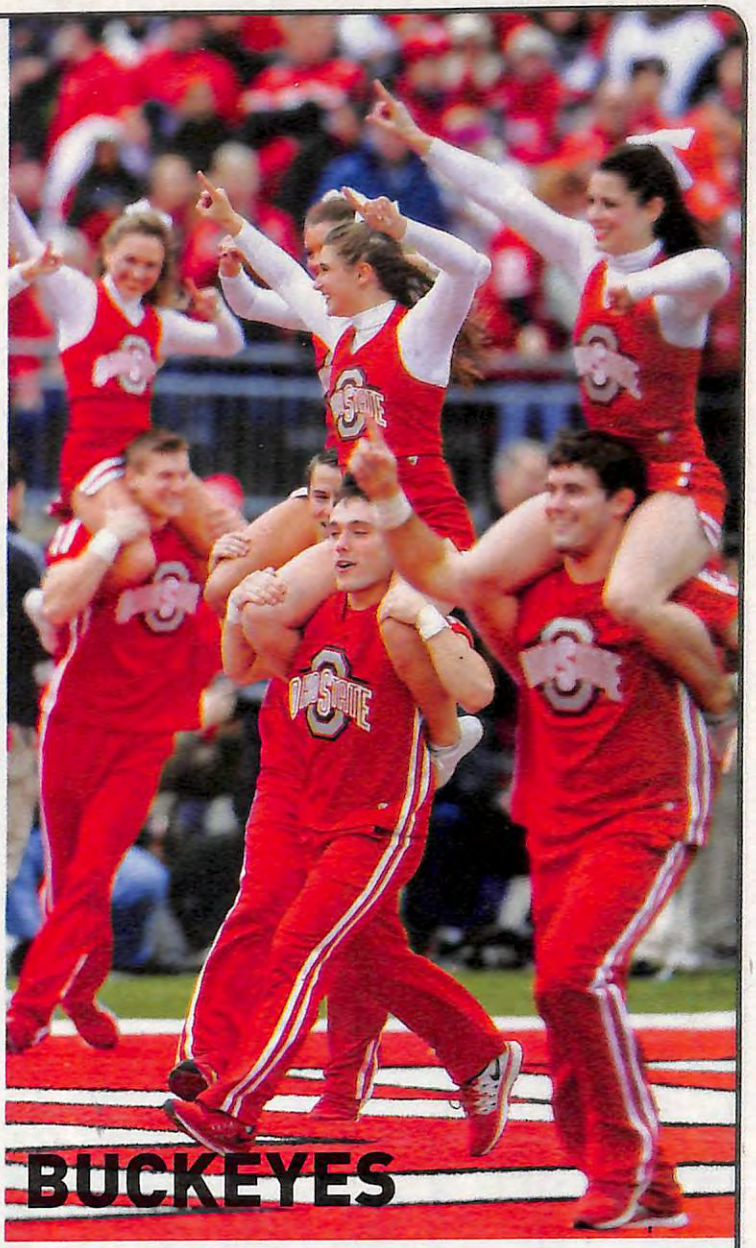

SOONERS



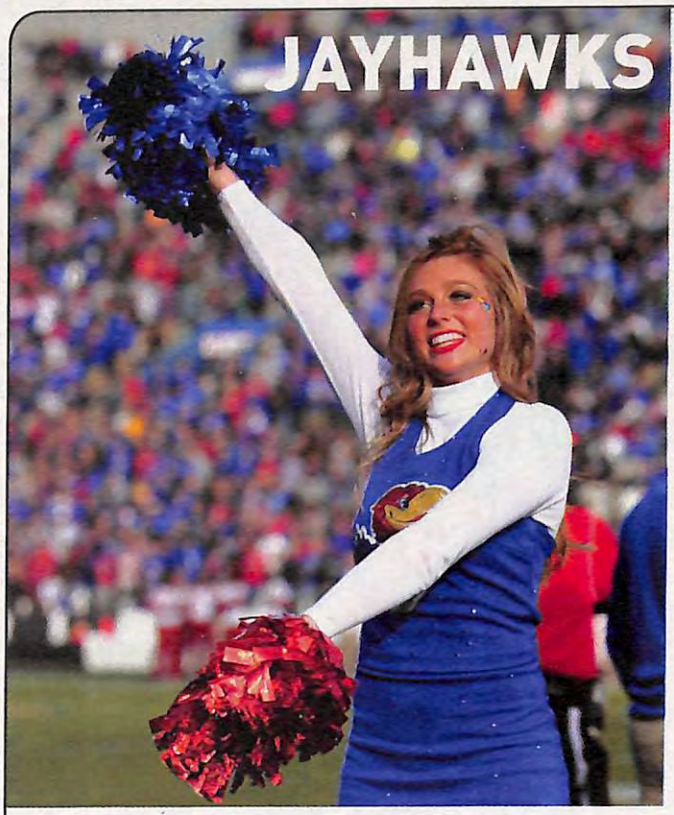

LONGHORNS

Texas, Oklahoma: Layne Murdoch, Nebraska: Jay Biggerstaff; FSU: Tom DiPace; Ohio State: Ric Fogel; Kentucky: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports


SEMINOLES

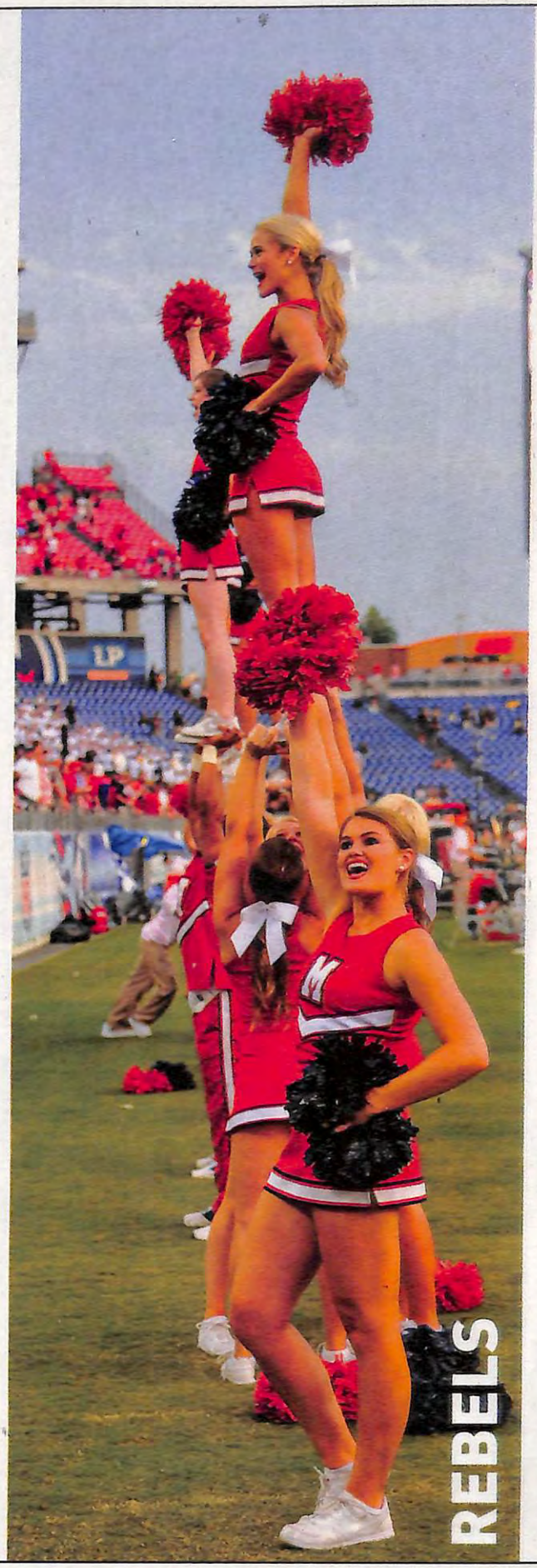

BUCKEYES


WILDCATS

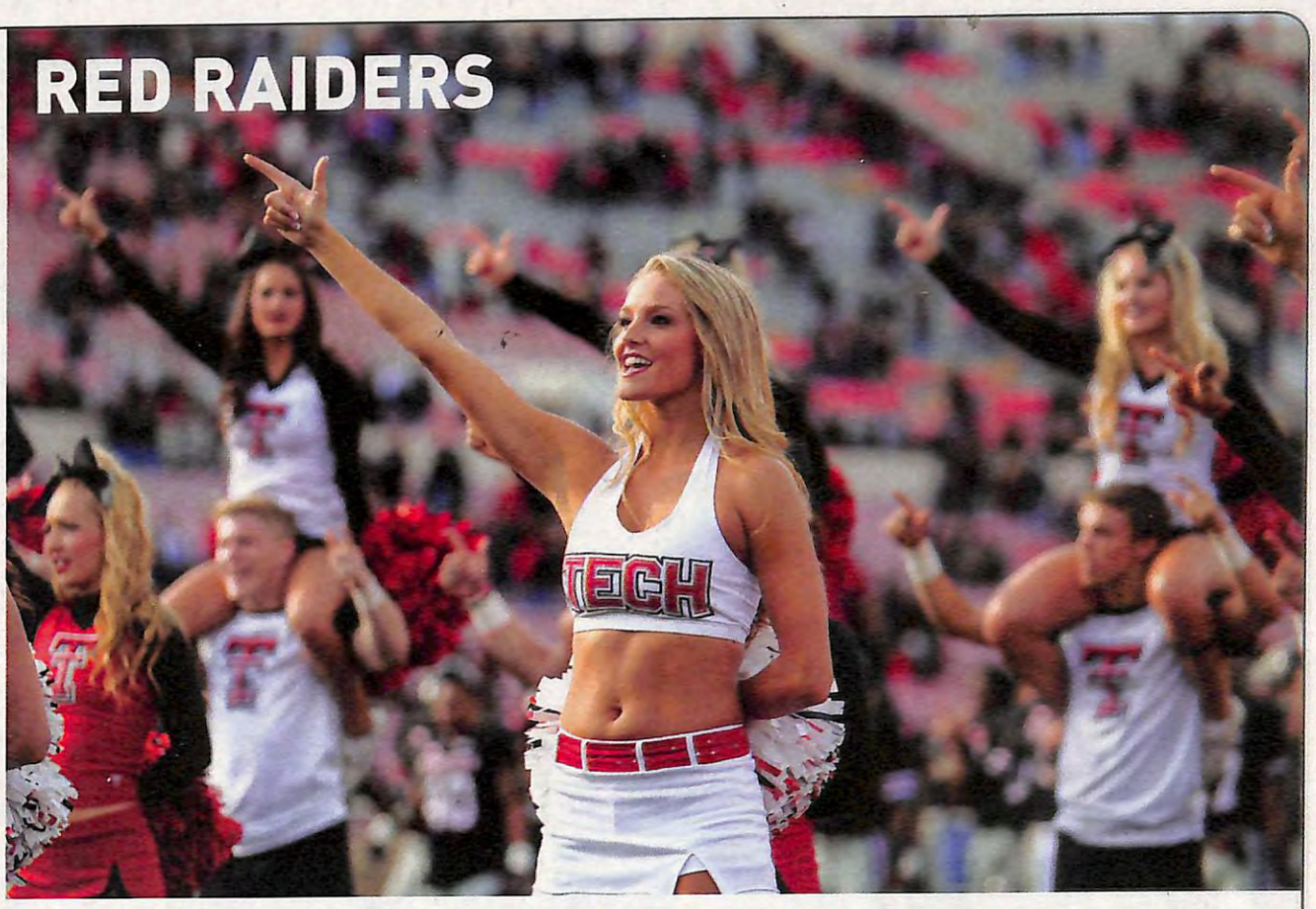

JAYHAWKS



TIGERS

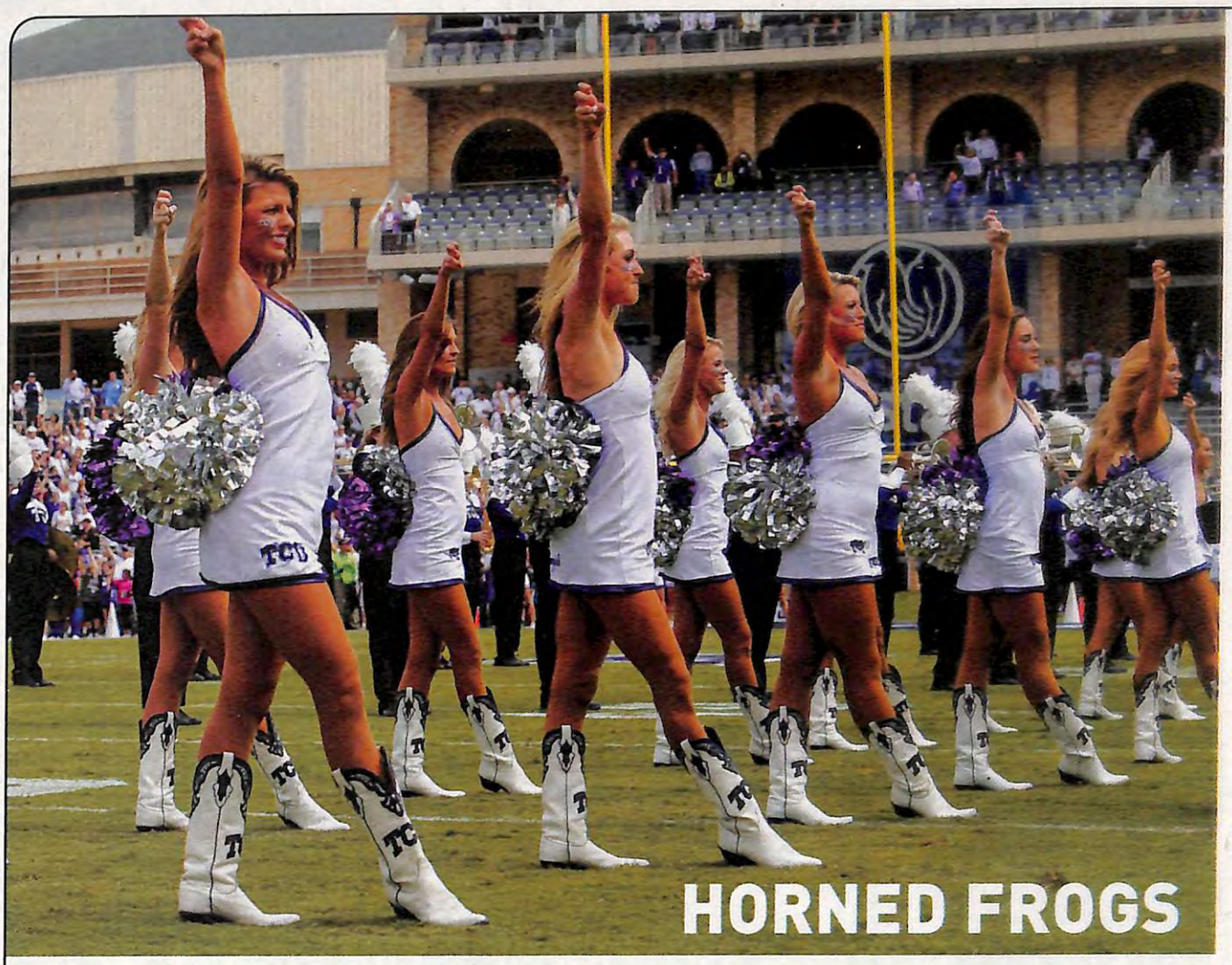

REBELS

Missouri, Kansas: Tim Umphrey; Ole Miss, NC State, Vanderbilt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Texas Tech: Layne Murdoch

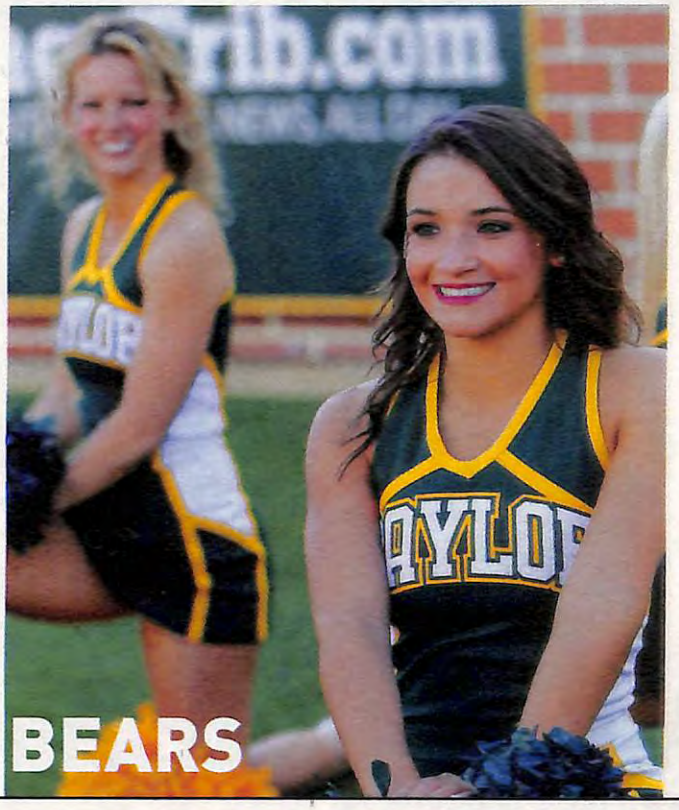

RED RAIDERS
TECH


WOLFPACK


COMMODORES

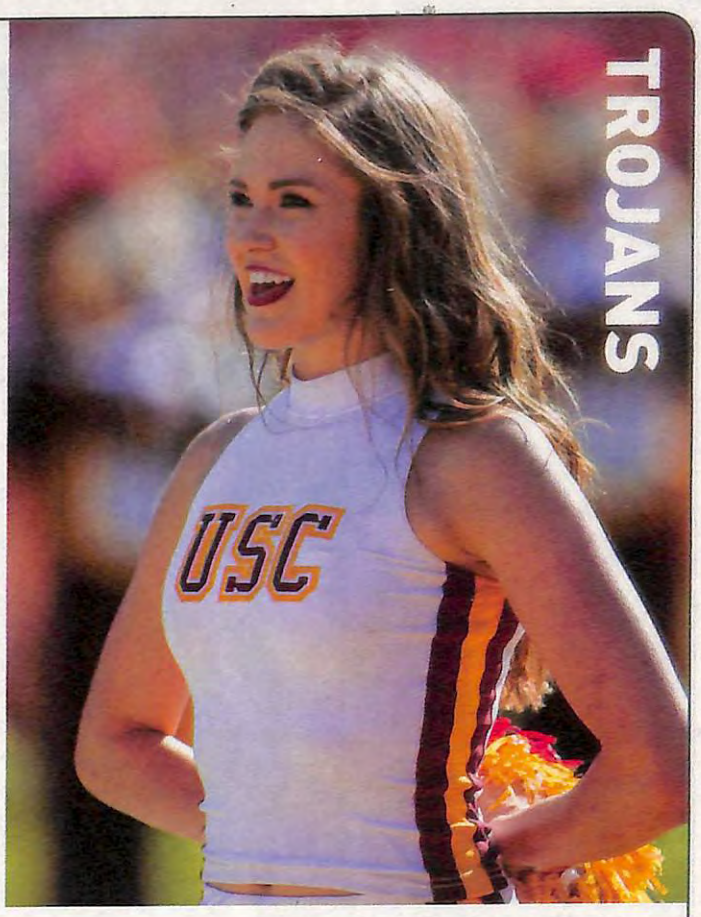


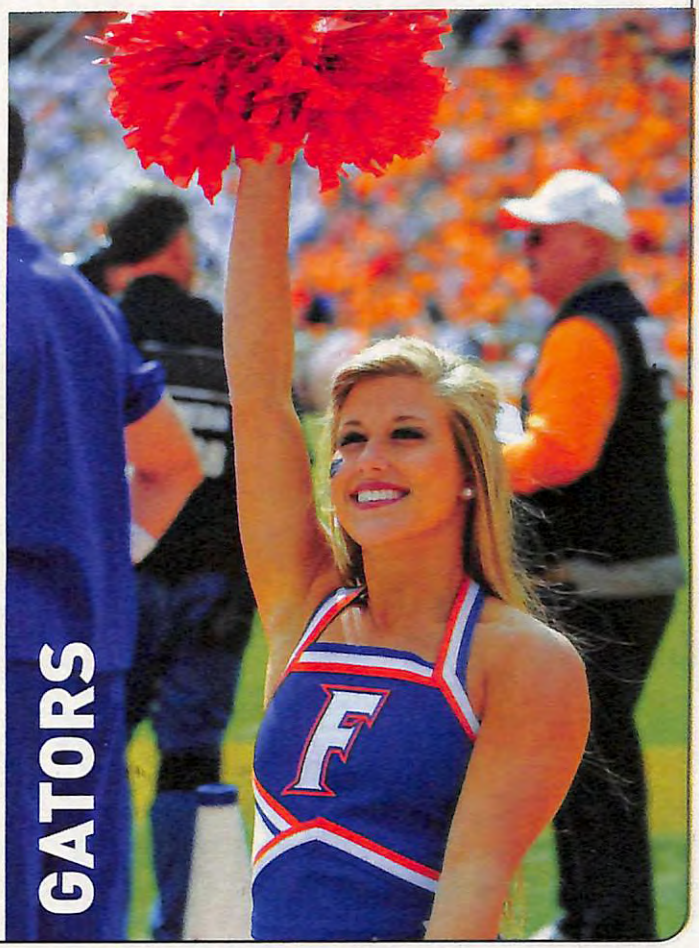




TCU, West Virginia, Baylor: Chris Covatta; Arizona, USC: Peter Brouillet, Florida: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports


GO
CATS
WILDCATS


USC
TROJANS


GATORS

TOP 100 RECRUITING REPORT

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RANKINGS PROVIDED BY

247 COMPOSITE

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Trent Thompson	Westover (Albany, GA)	DL	6-2	313	Georgia
2.	Martez Ivey	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	OL	6-5	275	Florida
3.	Byron Cowart	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DL	6-4	250	Auburn
4.	Iman Marshall	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
5.	Derwin James	Haines City (Haines City, FL)	DB	6-2	201	Florida State
6.	Kahlil McKenzie	Clayton Valley (Concord, CA)	DL	6-3	350	Tennessee
7.	CeCe Jefferson	Baker County (Glen St. Mary, FL)	DL	6-2	275	Florida
8.	Kevin Toliver II	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	DB	6-2	185	LSU
9.	Josh Sweat	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-5	240	Florida State
10.	Malik Jefferson	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	LB	6-2	215	Texas
11.	Calvin Ridley	Monarch (Pompano Beach, FL)	WR	6-0	170	Alabama
12.	Josh Rosen	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-4	205	UCLA
13.	Terry Beckner Jr.	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	DL	6-4	293	Missouri
14.	Daylon Mack	Gladewater (Gladewater, TX)	DL	6-1	330	Texas A&M
15.	Tarvarus McFadden	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-2	200	Florida State
16.	Canton Kaumatule	Punahou (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-7	290	Oregon
17.	Keisean Lucier-South	Lutheran Orange County (Orange, CA)	LB	6-4	210	UCLA
18.	Deon Cain	Tampa Bay Tech (Tampa, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Clemson
19.	George Campbell	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	6-3	185	Florida State
20.	Kendall Sheffield	Ft. Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	DB	6-0	180	Alabama
21.	Blake Barnett	Santiago (Corona, CA)	QB	6-4	200	Alabama
22.	Mitch Hyatt	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	OL	6-5	270	Clemson
23.	Rasheem Green	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DL	6-5	275	USC
24.	Christian Wilkins	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	DL	6-4	290	Clemson
25.	Christian Kirk	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	5-10	190	Texas A&M
26.	Chuma Edoga	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	OL	6-3	280	USC
27.	Tyron Johnson	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-1	190	LSU
28.	Terry Godwin	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	ATH	6-0	170	Georgia
29.	Daron Payne	Shades Valley (Birmingham, AL)	DL	6-2	325	Alabama
30.	Minkah Fitzpatrick	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	DB	6-1	200	Alabama
31.	Damien Harris	Madison Southern (Berea, KY)	RB	5-11	205	Alabama
32.	Soso Jamabo	Plano West (Plano, TX)	RB	6-2	210	UCLA
33.	Kyler Murray	Allen (Allen, TX)	QB	5-10	180	Texas A&M
34.	Justin Hilliard	St. Xavier (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-0	225	Ohio State
35.	Osa Masina	Brighton (Salt Lake City, UT)	LB	6-3	230	USC
36.	Kyle Phillips	Hillsboro (Nashville, TN)	DL	6-3	250	Tennessee
37.	Maea Teuhema	Keller (Keller, TX)	OL	6-4	340	LSU
38.	Jarrett Stidham	Stephenville (Stephenville, TX)	QB	6-4	195	Baylor
39.	Ronald Jones II	McKinney North (McKinney, TX)	RB	6-0	185	USC
40.	Jacques Patrick	Timber Creek (Orlando, FL)	RB	6-1	230	Florida State
41.	Porter Gustin	Salem Hills (Salem, UT)	LB	6-5	245	USC
42.	Kerryon Johnson	Madison Academy (Madison, AL)	RB	6-0	200	Auburn
43.	DeMarkus Lodge	Cedar Hill (Cedar Hill, TX)	WR	6-2	190	Ole Miss
44.	Deionte Thompson	West Orange-Stark (Orange, TX)	DB	6-2	180	Alabama
45.	Brandon Wimbush	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	QB	6-2	205	Notre Dame
46.	Derrius Guice	Catholic (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	5-10	213	LSU
47.	Roquan Smith	Macon County (Montezuma, GA)	LB	6-2	210	Georgia
48.	Preston Williams	Lovejoy (Hampton, GA)	WR	6-4	190	Tennessee
49.	John Houston	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	LB	6-3	211	USC
50.	Breiden Fehoko	Farrington (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-3	290	Texas Tech
51.	Taj Griffin	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	RB	5-10	175	Oregon
52.	Javon Patterson	Petal (Petal, MS)	OL	6-2	317	Ole Miss
53.	Shy Tuttle	North Davidson (Lexington, NC)	DL	6-3	320	Tennessee
54.	Lester Cotton	Central (Tuscaloosa, AL)	OL	6-4	325	Alabama
55.	Drew Richmond	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)	OL	6-5	310	Tennessee
56.	Donte Jackson	Riverdale (New Orleans, LA)	CB	5-11	165	LSU
57.	Jalen Dalton	West Forsyth (Clemmons, NC)	DL	6-5	260	North Carolina
58.	Jamal Peters	Bassfield (Bassfield, MS)	DB	6-1	205	Mississippi State
59.	L.J. Scott	Hubbard (Hubbard, OH)	RB	6-2	228	Michigan State
60.	Marvell Tell	Crespi (Encino, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
61.	Jerome Baker	St. Benedictine (Cleveland, OH)	LB	6-2	205	Ohio State
62.	Alize Jones	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	TE	6-4	218	Notre Dame
63.	Leo Lewis	Brookhaven (Brookhaven, MS)	LB	6-3	225	Mississippi State
64.	Deondre Francois	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	QB	6-1	195	Florida State
65.	Richie Petitbon	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	OL	6-4	300	Alabama
66.	Jonathan Ledbetter	Tucker (Tucker, GA)	DL	6-4	265	Georgia
67.	Brady White	Hart (Newhall, CA)	QB	6-1	180	Arizona State
68.	DeChaun Holiday	Mission Hills (San Marcos, CA)	DB	6-3	195	UCLA
69.	Jacob Daniel	Clovis North (Clovis, CA)	DL	6-4	310	USC
70.	Trent Irwin	Hart (Newhall, CA)	WR	6-1	190	Stanford
71.	Jake Browning	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	QB	6-2	185	Washington
72.	Neville Gallimore	Canada Prep Academy (St. Catharine's, ON)	DL	6-2	330	Oklahoma
73.	Anthony Wheeler	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-2	225	Texas
74.	Brian Cole	Heritage (Saginaw, MI)	WR	6-2	190	Michigan
75.	Johnny Frasier	Princeton (Princeton, NC)	RB	5-10	230	NC State
76.	Torrence Gibson	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	QB	6-4	205	Ohio State
77.	Chris Warren III	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	RB	6-2	240	Texas
78.	Michael Weber	Cass Tech (Detroit, MI)	RB	5-9	220	Ohio State
79.	Ricky Town	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	QB	6-3	205	USC
80.	Holton Hill	Lamar (Houston, TX)	DB	6-2	185	Texas
81.	Ray Ray McCloud III	Sickles (Tampa, FL)	WR	5-9	175	Clemson
82.	Arden Key	Hapeville Charter (Atlanta, GA)	DL	6-5	230	LSU
83.	Mark Walton	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	RB	5-10	180	Miami
84.	Ykili Ross	Riverside Poly (Riverside, CA)	DB	6-0	175	USC
85.	Chris Clark	Avon Old Farms (Avon, CT)	TE	6-6	245	UCLA
86.	Ricky DeBerry	Atlee (Mechanicsville, VA)	DL	6-2	240	Oklahoma
87.	Joseph Wicker	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DL	6-2	280	Arizona State
88.	Natrez Patrick	Mays (Atlanta, GA)	LB	6-3	260	Georgia
89.	Tristen Hoge	Highland (Pocatello, ID)	OL	6-4	280	Notre Dame
90.	Daylon Charlot	Patterson (Patterson, LA)	WR	6-0	195	Alabama
91.	Jashon Cornell	Cretin-Derham Hall (St. Paul, MN)	DL	6-4	260	Ohio State
92.	Albert Huggins	Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Orangeburg, SC)	DL	6-3	280	Clemson
93.	Abdul Bello	Montverde Academy (Montverde, FL)	OL	6-6	295	Florida State
94.	Dexter Williams	West Orange (Winter Garden, FL)	RB	6-0	192	Notre Dame
95.	Mark Fields	William Amos Hough (Cornelius, NC)	DB	5-11	190	Clemson
96.	Drew Lock	Lee's Summit (Lee's Summit, MO)	QB	6-3	205	Missouri
97.	Isaiah Langley	Foothill (Pleasanton, CA)	CB	5-11	160	USC
98.	Kris Boyd	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	DB	5-11	185	Texas
99.	Da'Vante Phillips	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	WR	6-2	205	Florida State
100.	Eric Glover-Williams	McKinley (Canton, OH)	DB	5-11	165	Ohio State

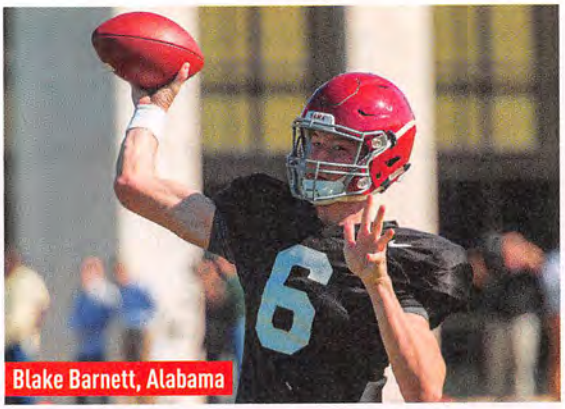
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TOP 50 RECRUITING JUCO TRANSFERS CLASSES

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TOP 50 JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFERS

	Player	Junior College	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Jovon Robinson	Georgia Military College	RB	5-11	225	Auburn
2.	Alvin Kamara	Hutchinson	RB	5-10	210	Tennessee
3.	Marquavius Lewis	Hutchinson	DE	6-4	270	South Carolina
4.	D.J. Jones	East Mississippi	DT	6-2	310	Ole Miss
5.	Devonte Fields	Trinity Valley	DE	6-4	240	Louisville
6.	Davon Durant	Butler	LB	6-2	240	Arizona State
7.	Tony Bridges	Mississippi Gulf Coast	CB	6-2	185	Ole Miss
8.	Donald Gray	Copiah-Lincoln	WR	5-9	185	Mississippi State
9.	Martinas Rankin	Mississippi Gulf Coast	OT	6-5	300	Mississippi State
10.	Jason Smith	Mississippi Gulf Coast	ATH	6-1	180	Auburn
11.	Justin Martin	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	CB	6-2	190	Tennessee
12.	Paris Palmer	Lackawanna	OT	6-8	305	Penn State
13.	De'Quan Hampton	Long Beach City College	WR	6-4	220	USC
14.	Dede Westbrook	Blinn College	WR	5-11	175	Oklahoma
15.	Rasul Douglas	Nassua	CB	6-3	200	West Virginia
16.	Dante Sawyer	East Mississippi	DE	6-2	260	South Carolina
17.	Lorenzo Phillips	East Mississippi	LB	6-3	230	Florida State
18.	Jeremiah Ledbetter	Hutchinson	DT	6-3	280	Arkansas
19.	Jerome Washington	Mercer County	TE	6-5	260	Miami
20.	Chase Abbington	Hutchinson	RB	6-2	210	Missouri
21.	Zach Bateman	Orange Coast College	OT	6-7	320	UCLA
22.	Shalom Luani	City of College of San Francisco	S	6-1	200	Washington State
23.	Chris Carson	Butler	RB	6-1	100	Oklahoma State
24.	Cory Butler	Los Angeles Harbor College	WR	5-11	175	Utah
25.	Jeremy Cutrer	Mississippi Gulf Coast	S	6-2	170	LSU
26.	Lio Lafaele	Riverside	OT	6-4	300	--
27.	Tyler Howell	Butler	OT	6-9	302	Missouri
28.	Courtney Miggins	Pearl River	DT	6-5	285	Kentucky
29.	Justin Evans	Mississippi Gulf Coast	S	6-0	185	Texas A&M
30.	Traver Jung	Holmes	LB	6-4	215	Mississippi State
31.	DeVondre Seymour	Hinds	OT	6-6	315	Georgia
32.	Marcell Frazier	College of Siskiyous	DE	6-4	250	Missouri
33.	Maurice Porter	Navarro College	OT	6-5	295	Baylor
34.	Isaac Whitney	Riverside	WR	6-3	200	USC
35.	Jonathan Taylor	Copiah-Lincoln	DT	6-4	335	Alabama
36.	Greg Webb	Hutchinson	DT	6-1	312	Temple
37.	Chad Kelly	East Mississippi	QB	6-1	210	Ole Miss
38.	Demond Tucker	Copiah-Lincoln	DT	6-1	285	Iowa State
39.	Brandon Hodges	East Mississippi	OT	6-5	295	Texas
40.	Anthony Fotu	Laney College	DT	6-4	285	Arizona
41.	Motekiai Maile	Tyler	DT	6-4	300	Oklahoma State
42.	Kwamane Bowens	Butler	WR	6-0	195	Texas State
43.	Glen Bethel	Arizona Western College	OT	6-5	295	South Florida
44.	William Johnson	Monroe College	CB	6-0	185	Oklahoma
45.	Jamal Danley	East Mississippi	OT	6-5	310	Oklahoma
46.	Quincy Vassser	Navarro College	DE	6-4	260	Texas
47.	Austin Roberts	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	DE	6-6	265	--
48.	Damion Ratley	Blinn College	WR	6-1	185	Texas A&M
49.	Deonte Reynolds	Contra Costa College	DT	6-5	325	Arizona State
50.	Johnathan Calvin	Copiah-Lincoln	DE	6-4	250	Mississippi State


Blake Barnett, Alabama

TOP 50 CLASSES

1. ALABAMA
2. USC
3. FLORIDA STATE
4. TENNESSEE
5. LSU
6. GEORGIA
7. OHIO STATE
8. CLEMSON
9. AUBURN
10. TEXAS
11. TEXAS A&M
12. UCLA
13. NOTRE DAME
14. PENN STATE
15. OKLAHOMA
16. OREGON
17. OLE MISS
18. MISSISSIPPI STATE
19. SOUTH CAROLINA
20. ARIZONA STATE
21. FLORIDA
22. MICHIGAN STATE
23. ARKANSAS
24. STANFORD
25. MISSOURI
26. WASHINGTON
27. MIAM
28. NORTH CAROLINA
29. VIRGINIA TECH
30. NC STATE
31. NEBRASKA
32. LOUISVILLE
33. TEXAS TECH
34. WISCONSIN
35. CALIFORNIA
36. WEST VIRGINIA
37. BAYLOR
38. MICHIGAN
39. KENTUCKY
40. OKLAHOMA STATE
41. TCU
42. ARIZONA
43. GEORGIA TECH
44. WASHINGTON STATE
45. UTAH
46. ILLINOIS
47. VANDERBILT
48. MARYLAND
49. VIRGINIA
50. DUKE

BY POSITION RECRUITING REPORT

RANKINGS PROVIDED BY 247COMPOSITE

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QUARTERBACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Josh Rosen	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-4	205	UCLA
2.	Blake Barnett	Santiago (Corona, CA)	QB	6-4	200	Alabama
3.	Kyler Murray	Allen (Allen, TX)	QB	5-10	180	Texas A&M
4.	Jarrett Stidham	Stephenville (Stephenville, TX)	QB	6-4	195	Baylor
5.	Brandon Wimbush	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	QB	6-2	205	Notre Dame
6.	Deondre Francois	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	QB	6-1	195	Florida State
7.	Brady White	Hart (Newhall, CA)	QB	6-1	180	Arizona State
8.	Jake Browning	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	QB	6-2	185	Washington
9.	Torrence Gibson	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	QB	6-4	205	Ohio State
10.	Ricky Town	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	QB	6-3	205	USC
11.	Drew Lock	Lee's Summit (Lee's Summit, MO)	QB	6-3	205	Missouri
12.	Travis Waller	Servite (Anaheim, CA)	QB	6-2	190	Oregon
13.	Sam Darnold	San Clemente (San Clemente, CA)	QB	6-3	210	USC
14.	Jauan Jennings	Blackman (Murfreesboro, TN)	QB	6-4	190	Tennessee
15.	Zach Gentry	Eldorado (Albuquerque, NM)	QB	6-7	230	Michigan
16.	Dwayne Lawson	Hillsborough (Tampa, FL)	QB	6-6	210	Virginia Tech
17.	Ty Storey	Charleston (Charleston, AR)	QB	6-3	215	Arkansas
18.	Brett Rypien	Shadle Park (Spokane, WA)	QB	6-2	185	Boise State
19.	Sheriron Jones	Rancho Verde (Perris, CA)	QB	6-2	182	Tennessee
20.	Qunten Dormady	Boerne (Boerne, TX)	QB	6-4	200	Tennessee
21.	John Kolar	Norman North (Norman, OK)	QB	6-4	185	Oklahoma State
22.	Alex Malzone	Brother Rice (Bloomfield Hills, MI)	QB	6-2	205	Michigan
23.	Kyle Shurmur	La Salle College (Philadelphia, PA)	QB	6-4	215	Vanderbilt
24.	Joe Burrow	Athens (The Plains, OH)	QB	6-3	215	Ohio State
25.	Lorenzo Nunez	Harrison (Kennesaw, GA)	QB	6-2	190	South Carolina
26.	Kai Locksley	Gilman (Baltimore, MD)	QB	6-3	188	Texas
27.	Tyler Queen	North Cobb (Kennesaw, GA)	QB	6-2	230	Auburn
28.	De'Andre Johnson	First Coast (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-2	186	Florida State
29.	Anthony Ratliff-Williams	Butler (Matthews, NC)	QB	6-1	195	North Carolina
30.	Lamar Jackson	Boynton Beach (Boynton Beach, FL)	QB	6-3	196	Louisville

RUNNING BACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Damien Harris	Madison Southern (Berea, KY)	RB	5-11	205	Alabama
2.	Soso Jamabo	Plano West (Plano, TX)	RB	6-2	210	UCLA
3.	Ronald Jones II	McKinney North (McKinney, TX)	RB	6-0	185	USC
4.	Jacques Patrick	Timber Creek (Orlando, FL)	RB	6-1	230	Florida State
5.	Kerryon Johnson	Madison Academy (Madison, AL)	RB	6-0	200	Auburn
6.	Derrius Guice	Catholic (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	5-10	213	LSU
7.	Taj Griffin	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	RB	5-10	175	Oregon
8.	L.J. Scott	Hubbard (Hubbard, OH)	RB	6-2	228	Michigan State
9.	Johnny Frasier	Princeton (Princeton, NC)	RB	5-10	230	NC State
10.	Chris Warren III	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	RB	6-2	240	Texas
11.	Michael Weber	Cass Tech (Detroit, MI)	RB	5-9	220	Ohio State
12.	Mark Walton	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	RB	5-10	180	Miami
13.	Dexter Williams	West Orange (Winter Garden, FL)	RB	6-0	192	Notre Dame
14.	Nyheim Hines	Garner (Garner, NC)	RB	5-9	190	NC State
15.	Jordan Scarlett	St. Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	RB	5-10	202	Florida
16.	Eric Swinney	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	RB	5-10	190	Ole Miss
17.	Saquon Barkley	Whitehall (Whitehall, PA)	RB	5-11	190	Penn State
18.	DeSherrius Flowers	Vigor (Mobile, AL)	RB	6-0	205	Alabama
19.	Rodney Anderson	Katy (Katy, TX)	RB	6-0	205	Oklahoma
20.	Nick Brossette	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	6-0	207	LSU
21.	Jason Lewis	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	RB	6-2	250	Arizona State
22.	Jordan Stevenson	South Oak Cliff (Dallas, TX)	RB	5-8	185	Wisconsin
23.	David Ducre	Lakeshore (Mandeville, LA)	FB	6-3	240	LSU
24.	Corey Dauphine	Memorial (Port. Arthur, TX)	RB	6-0	185	Texas Tech
25.	Bryce Love	Wake Forest (Wake Forest, NC)	RB	5-10	180	Stanford
26.	JaMycal Hasty	Longview (Longview, TX)	RB	5-8	185	Baylor
27.	Cameron Scarlett	Central Catholic (Portland, OR)	RB	6-1	215	Stanford
28.	Corey Dauphine	Memorial (Port Arthur, TX)	RB	6-0	185	Texas Tech
29.	Andre Robinson	Bishop McDevitt (Mechanicsburg, PA)	RB	5-9	215	Penn State
30.	Jordan Cronkrite	Westminster Christian (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	195	Florida

WIDE RECEIVERS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Calvin Ridley	Monarch (Pompano Beach, FL)	WR	6-0	170	Alabama
2.	Deon Cain	Tampa Bay Tech (Tampa, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Clemson
3.	George Campbell	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	6-3	185	Florida State
4.	Christian Kirk	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	5-10	190	Texas A&M
5.	Tyron Johnson	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-1	190	LSU
6.	Terry Godwin	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	WR	6-0	170	Georgia
7.	DeMarkus Lodge	Cedar Hill (Cedar Hill, TX)	WR	6-2	190	Ole Miss
8.	Preston Williams	Lovejoy (Hampton, GA)	WR	6-4	190	Tennessee
9.	Trent Irwin	Hart (Newhall, CA)	WR	6-1	190	Stanford
10.	Brian Cole	Heritage (Saginaw, MI)	WR	6-2	190	Michigan
11.	Ray Ray McCloud III	Sickles (Tampa, FL)	WR	5-9	175	Clemson
12.	Daylon Charlot	Patterson (Patterson, LA)	WR	6-0	195	Alabama
13.	Da'Vante Phillips	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	WR	6-2	205	Florida State
14.	Van Jefferson	Ravenwood (Brentwood, TN)	WR	6-2	165	Ole Miss
15.	Alex Ofodile	Rock Bridge (Columbia, MO)	WR	6-2	185	Oregon
16.	Juwan Johnson	Glassboro (Glassboro, NJ)	WR	6-4	215	Penn State
17.	Malik Lovette	Redlands East Valley (Redlands, CA)	WR	5-11	204	Oregon
18.	John Burt	Lincoln (Tallahassee, FL)	WR	6-3	180	Texas
19.	Darius Slayton	Greater Atlanta Christian (Norcross, GA)	WR	6-1	182	Auburn
20.	K.J. Hill	North Little Rock (North Little Rock, AR)	WR	6-0	190	Ohio State
21.	DeSean Holmes	Bishop Alemany (Mission Hills, CA)	WR	5-10	170	San Diego State
22.	Jovon Durante	Miramar (Hollywood, FL)	WR	6-0	180	West Virginia
23.	Equanimeous St. Brown	Servite (Anaheim, CA)	WR	6-5	205	Notre Dame
24.	Carlos Strickland	Skyline (Dallas, TX)*	WR	6-5	195	Cal
25.	Derrick Dillon	Pine (Franklinton, LA)	WR	5-11	175	LSU
26.	Kirk Merritt	Destrehan (Destrehan, LA)	WR	5-11	205	Oregon
27.	J.F. Thomas	South Oak Cliff (Dallas, TX)	WR	6-4	185	Texas Tech
28.	Blake Lynch	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	WR	6-3	195	Baylor
29.	Ryan Davis	Lakewood (St. Petersburg, FL)	WR	5-10	170	Auburn
30.	Miles Boykin	Providence Catholic (New Lenox, IL)	WR	6-4	220	Notre Dame

TIGHT ENDS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Alize Jones	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	TE	6-4	218	Notre Dame
2.	Chris Clark	Avon Old Farms (Avon, CT)	TE	6-6	245	UCLA
3.	Hale Hentges	Heilas (Jefferson City, MO)	TE	6-5	230	Alabama
4.	Garrett Williams	The First Academy (Orlando, FL)	TE	6-4	220	Clemson
5.	Jackson Harris	Columbia Central (Columbia, TN)	TE	6-6	250	Georgia
6.	C.J. O'Grady	Fayetteville (Fayetteville, AR)	TE	6-4	230	Arkansas
7.	Devonaire Clarington	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	TE	6-5	240	Texas
8.	Will Gragg	Dumas (Dumas, AR)	TE	6-4	245	Arkansas
9.	Tyler Petite	Campolindo (Morage, CA)	TE	6-5	225	USC
10.	Jordan Davis	Clear Lake (Houston, TX)	TE	6-4	255	Texas A&M


Alize Jones, Notre Dame

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OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Martez Ivey	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	OL	6-5	275	Florida
2.	Mitch Hyatt	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	OL	6-5	270	Clemson
3.	Chuma Edoga	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	OL	6-3	280	USC
4.	Maea Teuhema	Keller (Keller, TX)	OL	6-4	340	LSU
5.	Javon Patterson	Petal (Petal, MS)	OL	6-2	317	Ole Miss
6.	Lester Cotton	Central (Tuscaloosa, AL)	OL	6-4	325	Alabama
7.	Drew Richmond	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)	OL	6-5	310	Tennessee
8.	Richie Petitbon	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	OL	6-4	300	Alabama
9.	Tristen Hoge	Highland (Pocatello, ID)	OL	6-4	280	Notre Dame
10.	Abdul Bello	Montverde Academy (Montverde, FL)	OL	6-6	295	Florida State
11.	Chidi Valentine-Okeke	Faith Baptist Christian (Ludowici, GA)	OL	6-6	305	LSU
12.	Josh Wariboko	Casady School (Oklahoma City, OK)	OL	6-3	315	UCLA
13.	Toby Weathersby	Westfield (Houston, TX)	OL	6-4	295	LSU
14.	Isaiah Prince	Eleanor Roosevelt (Greenbelt, MD)	OL	6-6	272	Ohio State
15.	Matthew Burrell	C.D. Hylton (Woodbridge, VA)	OL	6-4	321	Ohio State
16.	Jake Fruhmorgen	Plant (Tampa, FL)	OL	6-5	280	Clemson
17.	Jack Jones	Oakland (Murfreesboro, TN)	OL	6-5	290	Tennessee
18.	Patrick Vahe	Trinity (Euless, TX)	OL	6-2	300	Texas
19.	Keenan Walker	Chaparral (Scottsdale, AZ)	OL	6-6	280	Arizona
20.	Fred Ulu-Perry	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	OL	6-2	300	UCLA
21.	Ryan Bates	Archbishop Wood (Warminster, PA)	OL	6-5	275	Penn State
22.	Bobby Evans	Allen (Allen, TX)	OL	6-4	280	Oklahoma
23.	Tommy Hatton	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	OL	6-3	280	North Carolina
24.	Jalin Barnett	Lawton (Lawton, OK)	OL	6-4	315	Nebraska
25.	Keaton Sutherland	Marcus (Flower Mound, TX)	OL	6-5	295	Texas A&M
26.	Kyonta Stallworth	Detroit Martin Luther King (Detroit, MI)	OL	6-4	275	Michigan State
27.	Gabe Megginson	Jacksonville (Jacksonville, IL)	OL	6-5	295	Illinois
28.	Connor Lanfear	Jack C. Hays (Buda, TX)	OL	6-5	295	Texas A&M
29.	Sterling Jenkins	Baldwin (Pittsburgh, PA)	OL	6-8	305	Penn State
30.	Patrick Allen	Franklin (Reisterstown, MD)	OL	6-5	285	Georgia

LINEBACKERS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Malik Jefferson	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	LB	6-2	215	Texas
2.	Keisean Lucier-South	Lutheran Orange County (Orange, CA)	LB	6-4	210	UCLA
3.	Justin Hilliard	St. Xavier (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-0	225	Ohio State
4.	Osa Masina	Brighton (Salt Lake City, UT)	LB	6-3	230	USC
5.	Porter Gustin	Salem Hills (Salem, UT)	LB	6-5	245	USC
6.	Roquan Smith	Macon County (Montezuma, GA)	LB	6-2	210	Georgia
7.	John Houston	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	LB	6-3	211	USC
8.	Jerome Baker	St. Benedictine (Cleveland, OH)	LB	6-2	205	Ohio State
9.	Leo Lewis	Brookhaven (Brookhaven, MS)	LB	6-3	225	Mississippi State
10.	Anthony Wheeler	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-2	225	Texas
11.	Natrez Patrick	Mays (Atlanta, GA)	LB	6-3	260	Georgia
12.	Mekhi Brown	Carver (Columbus, GA)	LB	6-4	222	Alabama
13.	Jeff Holland	Trinity Christian Academy (Jacksonville, FL)	LB	6-2	230	Auburn
14.	D'Andre Walker	Langston Hughes (Fairburn, GA)	LB	6-2	210	Georgia
15.	Josh Barajas	Andrean (Merrillville, IN)	LB	6-3	215	Notre Dame
16.	Josh Smith	Oakland (Murfreesboro, TN)	LB	6-3	230	Vanderbilt
17.	Jahvoni Simmons	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	LB	6-1	225	Virginia
18.	Darrin Kirkland Jr.	Lawrence Central (Indianapolis, IN)	LB	6-1	225	Tennessee
19.	Ben Humphreys	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	LB	6-1	200	Duke
20.	Adonis Thomas	Central Gwinnett (Lawrenceville, GA)	LB	6-3	230	Alabama
21.	Anfernee Jennings	Dadeville (Dadeville, AL)	LB	6-3	260	Alabama
22.	Darrell Williams	Hoover (Birmingham, AL)	LB	6-3	225	Auburn
23.	Asmar Bilal	Ben Davis (Indianapolis, IN)	LB	6-2	205	Notre Dame
24.	Cameron Smith	Granite Bay (Granite Bay, CA)	LB	6-3	240	USC
25.	Richard McBryde	Charles Henderson (Troy, AL)	LB	6-2	210	Auburn
26.	Nick Conner	Dublin Scioto (Dublin, OH)	LB	6-3	225	Ohio State
27.	Josh Woods	Upland (Upland, CA)	LB	6-0	220	UCLA
28.	Quart'e Sapp	Milton (Alpharetta, GA)	LB	6-1	200	Tennessee
29.	Chad Smith	Dominion (Sterling, VA)	LB	6-3	214	Clemson
30.	Joshua McMillon	Whitehaven (Memphis, TN)	LB	6-3	240	Alabama

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Trent Thompson	Westover (Albany, GA)	DL	6-2	313	Georgia
2.	Byron Cowart	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DL	6-4	250	Auburn
3.	Kahlil McKenzie	Clayton Valley (Concord, CA)	DL	6-3	350	Tennessee
4.	CeCe Jefferson	Baker County (Glen St. Mary, FL)	DL	6-2	275	Florida
5.	Josh Sweat	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-5	240	Florida State
6.	Terry Beckner Jr.	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	DL	6-4	293	Missouri
7.	Daylon Mack	Gladewater (Gladewater, TX)	DL	6-1	330	Texas A&M
8.	Canton Kaumatule	Punahou (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-7	290	Oregon
9.	Rasheem Green	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DL	6-5	275	USC
10.	Christian Wilkins	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	DL	6-4	290	Clemson
11.	Daron Payne	Shades Valley (Birmingham, AL)	DL	6-2	325	Alabama
12.	Kyle Phillips	Hillsboro (Nashville, TN)	DL	6-3	250	Tennessee
13.	Breiden Fehoko	Farrington (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-3	290	Texas Tech
14.	Shy Tuttle	North Davidson (Lexington, NC)	DL	6-3	320	Tennessee
15.	Jalen Dalton	West Forsyth (Clemmons, NC)	DL	6-5	260	North Carolina
16.	Jonathan Ledbetter	Tucker (Tucker, GA)	DL	6-4	265	Georgia
17.	Jacob Daniel	Clovis North (Clovis, CA)	DL	6-4	310	USC
18.	Neville Gallimore	Canada Prep Academy (St. Catharine's, ON)	DL	6-2	330	Oklahoma
19.	Arden Key	Hapeville Charter (Atlanta, GA)	DL	6-5	230	LSU
20.	Ricky DeBerry	Atlee (Mechanicsville, VA)	DL	6-2	240	Oklahoma
21.	Joseph Wicker	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DL	6-2	280	Arizona State
22.	Jashon Cornell	Cretin-Derham Hall (St. Paul, MN)	DL	6-4	260	Ohio State
23.	Albert Huggins	Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Orangeburg, SC)	DL	6-3	280	Clemson
24.	Tim Settle	Stonewall Jackson (Manassas, VA)	DL	6-2	315	Virginia Tech
25.	Prince Tega Wanogho	Edgewood Academy (Elmore, AL)	DL	6-8	250	Auburn
26.	Darian Roseboro	Lincolnton (Lincolnton, NC)	DL	6-4	285	NC State
27.	Clelin Ferrell	Bendictine (Richmond, VA)	DL	6-5	225	Clemson
28.	Adam McLean	Quince Orchard (Gaithersburg, MD)	DL	6-2	290	Maryland
29.	James Lockhart	Ennis (Ennis, TX)	DL	6-2	251	Texas A&M
30.	Dre'Mont Jones	St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH)	DL	6-3	265	Ohio State

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Iman Marshall	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
2.	Derwin James	Haines City (Haines City, FL)	DB	6-2	201	Florida State
3.	Kevin Toliver II	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	DB	6-2	185	LSU
4.	Tarvarus McFadden	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-2	200	Florida State
5.	Kendall Sheffield	Ft. Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	DB	6-0	180	Alabama
6.	Minkah Fitzpatrick	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	DB	6-1	200	Alabama
7.	Deionte Thompson	West Orange-Stark (Orange, TX)	DB	6-2	180	Alabama
8.	Donte Jackson	Riverdale (New Orleans, LA)	DB	5-11	165	LSU
9.	Jamal Peters	Bassfield (Bassfield, MS)	DB	6-1	205	Mississippi State
10.	Marvell Tell	Crespi (Encino, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
11.	DeChaun Holiday	Mission Hills (San Marcos, CA)	DB	6-3	195	UCLA
12.	Holton Hill	Lamar (Houston, TX)	DB	6-2	185	Texas
13.	Ykili Ross	Riverside Poly (Riverside, CA)	DB	6-0	175	USC
14.	Mark Fields	William Amos Hough (Cornelius, NC)	DB	5-11	190	Clemson
15.	Isaiah Langley	Foothill (Pleasanton, CA)	DB	5-11	160	USC
16.	Kris Boyd	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	DB	5-11	185	Texas
17.	Eric Glover-Williams	McKinley (Canton, OH)	DB	5-11	165	Ohio State
18.	Jordan Whitehead	Central Valley (Monaca, PA)	DB	5-11	185	Pitt
19.	Shaun Crawford	St. Edward (Lakewood, OH)	DB	5-9	170	Notre Dame
20.	Frank Buncom IV	St. Augustine (San Diego, CA)	DB	6-2	190	Stanford
21.	Garrett Taylor	St. Christopher's School (Richmond, PA)	DB	6-1	195	Penn State
22.	John Reid	St. Joseph's (Philadelphia, PA)	DB	5-10	180	Penn State
23.	Eric Lee Jr.	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	DB	6-0	175	Nebraska
24.	Rashad Roundtree	Lakeside (Evans, GA)	DB	6-1	195	Georgia
25.	P.J. Mbanasor	Hendrickson (Pflugerville, TX)	DB	6-0	175	Oklahoma
26.	Justin Dunning	Whitehouse (Whitehouse, TX)	DB	6-3	205	Texas A&M
27.	Marcus Lewis	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	DB	6-1	190	Florida State
28.	Rico McGraw	Ensworth (Nashville, TN)	DB	6-0	190	Georgia
29.	Stanley Norman	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DB	6-0	180	Arizona State
30.	Larry Pryor	Sulphur Springs (Sulphur Springs, TX)	DB	5-1	195	Texas A&M

BY CONFERENCE RECRUITING REPORT

RANKINGS PROVIDED BY 247COMPOSITE

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ACC

Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1. Derwin James	Haines City (Haines City, FL)	DB	6-2	201	Florida State
2. Josh Sweat	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-5	240	Florida State
3. Tarvarus McFadden	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-2	200	Florida State
4. Deon Cain	Tampa Bay Tech (Tampa, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Clemson
5. George Campbell	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	6-3	185	Florida State
6. Mitch Hyatt	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	OL	6-5	270	Clemson
7. Christian Wilkins	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	DL	6-4	290	Clemson
8. Jacques Patrick	Timber Creek (Orlando, FL)	RB	6-1	230	Florida State
9. Jalen Dalton	West Forsyth (Clemmons, NC)	DL	6-5	260	North Carolina
10. Deondre Francois	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	QB	6-1	195	Florida State
11. Johnny Frasier	Princeton (Princeton, NC)	RB	5-10	230	NC State
12. Ray Ray McCloud III	Sickles (Tampa, FL)	WR	5-9	175	Clemson
13. Mark Walton	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	RB	5-10	180	Miami
14. Albert Huggins	Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Orangeburg, SC)	DL	6-3	280	Clemson
15. Abdul Bello	Montverde Academy (Montverde, FL)	OL	6-6	295	Florida State
16. Mark Fields	William Amos Hough (Cornelius, NC)	DB	5-11	190	Clemson
17. Da'Vante Phillips	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	WR	6-2	205	Florida State
18. Tim Settle	Stonewall Jackson (Manassas, VA)	DL	6-2	315	Virginia Tech
19. Jordan Whitehead	Central Valley (Monaca, PA)	DB	5-11	185	Pitt
20. Darian Roseboro	Lincolnton (Lincolnton, NC)	DL	6-4	285	NC State
21. Nyheim Hines	Garner (Garner, NC)	RB	5-9	190	NC State
22. Clelin Ferrell	Bendictine (Richmond, VA)	DL	6-5	225	Clemson
23. Jake Fruhmorgen	Plant (Tampa, FL)	OL	6-5	280	Clemson
24. Marcus Lewis	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	DB	6-1	190	Florida State
25. Jahvoni Simmons	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	LB	6-1	225	Virginia
26. Ben Humphreys	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	LB	6-1	200	Duke
27. Tommy Hatton	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	OL	6-3	280	North Carolina
28. Austin Bryant	Thomas County (Thomasville, GA)	DL	6-5	250	Clemson
29. Darvin Taylor	Thomas Dale (Chester, VA)	DL	6-2	295	Florida State
30. Garrett Williams	The First Academy (Orlando, FL)	TE	6-4	220	Clemson
31. Jaquan Johnson	Killian (Miami, FL)	DB	5-10	180	Miami
32. Dwayne Lawson	Hillsborough (Tampa, FL)	QB	6-6	210	Virginia Tech
33. Emanuel McGirt Jr.	Hillside (Durham, NC)	OL	6-6	275	NC State
34. Bar Milo	Chaminade (West Hills, CA)	OL	6-6	270	Miami
35. William Sweet	First Coast (Jacksonville, FL)	OL	6-5	280	North Carolina
36. Chad Smith	Dominion (Sterling, VA)	LB	6-3	214	Clemson
37. Auden Tate	Wharton (Tampa, FL)	WR	6-4	215	Florida State
38. Ty'Son Williams	Crestwood (Sumter, SC)	RB	5-11	200	North Carolina
39. Austin Clark	Rockbridge County (Lexington, VA)	OL	6-6	300	Virginia Tech
40. Sh'mar Kilby-Lane	Hallandale (Hallandale, FL)	LB	6-1	209	Florida State

BIG TEN

Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1. Justin Hilliard	St. Xavier (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-0	225	Ohio State
2. L.J. Scott	Hubbard (Hubbard, OH)	RB	6-2	228	Michigan State
3. Jerome Baker	St. Benedictine (Cleveland, OH)	LB	6-2	205	Ohio State
4. Brian Cole	Heritage (Saginaw, MI)	WR	6-2	190	Michigan
5. Torrence Gibson	American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	QB	6-4	205	Ohio State
6. Michael Weber	Cass Tech (Detroit, MI)	RB	5-9	220	Ohio State
7. Jashon Cornell	Cretin-Derham Hall (St. Paul, MN)	DL	6-4	260	Ohio State
8. Eric Glover-Williams	McKinley (Canton, OH)	DB	5-11	165	Ohio State
9. Isaiah Prince	Eleanor Roosevelt (Greenbelt, MD)	OL	6-6	272	Ohio State
10. Matthew Burrell	C.D. Hylton (Woodbridge, VA)	OL	6-4	321	Ohio State
11. Saquon Barkley	Whitehall (Whitehall, PA)	RB	5-11	190	Penn State
12. Adam McLean	Quince Orchard (Gaithersburg, MD)	DL	6-2	290	Maryland
13. Garrett Taylor	St. Christopher's School (Richmond, PA)	DB	6-1	195	Penn State
14. John Reid	St. Joseph's (Philadelphia, PA)	DB	5-10	180	Penn State
15. Eric Lee Jr.	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	DB	6-0	175	Nebraska
16. Juwan Johnson	Glassboro (Glassboro, NJ)	WR	6-4	215	Penn State
17. Dre'Mont Jones	St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH)	DL	6-3	265	Ohio State
18. K.J. Hill	North Little Rock (North Little Rock, AR)	WR	6-0	190	Ohio State
19. Ryan Bates	Archbishop Wood (Warminster, PA)	OL	6-5	275	Penn State
20. Zach Gentry	Eldorado (Albuquerque, NM)	QB	6-7	230	Michigan
21. Jalin Barnett	Lawton (Lawton, OK)	OL	6-4	315	Nebraska
22. Kyonta Stallworth	Detroit Martin Luther King (Detroit, MI)	OL	6-4	275	Michigan State
23. Gabe Megginson	Jacksonville (Jacksonville, IL)	OL	6-5	295	Illinois
24. Tyree Kinnel	Wayne (Dayton, OH)	DB	6-0	205	Michigan
25. Jordan Stevenson	South Oak Cliff (Dallas, TX)	RB	5-8	185	Wisconsin
26. Raequan Williams	DePaul College Prep (Chicago, IL)	DL	6-4	280	Michigan State
27. Sterling Jenkins	Baldwin (Pittsburgh, PA)	OL	6-8	305	Penn State
28. Nick Conner	Dublin Sciot (Dublin, OH)	LB	6-3	225	Ohio State
29. Grant Newsome	The Lawrenceville School (Trenton, NJ)	OL	6-6	290	Michigan
30. Kamonte Carter	Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD)	DL	6-4	243	Penn State
31. Ryan Buchholz	Great Valley (Malvern, PA)	DL	6-6	240	Penn State
32. Quarvez Boulware	Friendship Academy (Washington, DC)	OL	6-2	283	Maryland
33. Andre Robinson	Bishop McDevitt (Mechanicsburg, PA)	RB	5-9	215	Penn State
34. Denzel Ward	Nordonia (Macedonia, OH)	DB	5-11	165	Ohio State
35. Manny Bowen	Barnegat (Barnegat, NJ)	LB	6-2	205	Penn State
36. Marques Ford	East Bay (Gibsonton, FL)	DL	6-4	230	Rutgers
37. Arrington Farrar	Woodward Academy (Atlanta, GA)	DB	6-2	195	Wisconsin
38. Alex Malzone	Brother Rice (Bloomfield Hills, MI)	QB	6-2	205	Michigan
39. Irvin Charles	Paul Vi (Haddonfield, NJ)	WR	6-4	210	Penn State
40. Joe Burrow	Athens-VI (The Plains, OH)	QB	6-3	215	Ohio Stat

BIG 12

Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1. Malik Jefferson	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	LB	6-2	215	Texas
2. Jarrett Stidham	Stephenville (Stephenville, TX)	QB	6-4	195	Baylor
3. Breiden Fehoko	Farrington (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-3	290	Texas Tech
4. Neville Gallimore	Canada Prep Academy (St. Catharine's, ON)	DL	6-2	330	Oklahoma
5. Anthony Wheeler	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-2	225	Texas
6. Chris Warren III	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	RB	6-2	240	Texas
7. Holton Hill	Lamar (Houston, TX)	DB	6-2	185	Texas
8. Ricky DeBerry	Atlee (Mechanicsville, VA)	DL	6-2	240	Oklahoma
9. Kris Boyd	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	DB	5-11	185	Texas
10. Patrick Vahe	Trinity (Euless, TX)	OL	6-2	300	Texas
11. P.J. Mbanasor	Hendrickson (Pflugerville, TX)	DB	6-0	175	Oklahoma
12. John Burt	Lincoln (Tallahassee, FL)	WR	6-3	180	Texas
13. Rodney Anderson	Katy (Katy, TX)	RB	6-0	205	Oklahoma
14. Jovon Durante	Miramar (Hollywood, FL)	WR	6-0	180	West Virginia
15. Will Sunderland	Midwest City (Oklahoma City, OK)	DB	6-3	195	Oklahoma
16. Tyrek Cole	Miramar (Hollywood, FL)	DB	5-11	170	West Virginia
17. Bobby Evans	Allen (Allen, TX)	OL	6-4	280	Oklahoma
18. J.F. Thomas	South Oak Cliff (Dallas, TX)	WR	6-4	185	Texas Tech
19. DeShon Elliott	Rockwall-Heath (Rockwall, TX)	DB	6-1	200	Texas
20. Blake Lynch	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	WR	6-3	195	Baylor
21. Marquise Overton	Jenks (Jenks, OK)	DL	6-1	300	Oklahoma
22. Devonaire Clarington	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	TE	6-5	240	Texas
23. Corey Dauphine	Memorial (Port. Arthur, TX)	RB	6-0	185	Texas Tech
24. Ryan Newsome	Aledo (Aledo, TX)	WR	5-8	170	Texas
25. JaMycal Hasty	Longview (Longview, TX)	RB	5-8	185	Baylor
26. Conner Dyer	Horn (Mesquite, TX)	OL	6-4	280	Texas Tech
27. Darrion Daniels	Bishop Dunne (Dallas, TX)	DL	6-3	290	Oklahoma State
28. Cameron Townsend	Ridge Point (Missouri City, TX)	LB	6-1	193	Texas
29. Deshawn Raymond	East Jefferson (Metairie, LA)	DB	6-1	190	TCU
30. Madison Akamnonu	Bowie (Arlington, TX)	OL	6-5	280	Texas Tech
31. John Kolar	Norman North (Norman, OK)	QB	6-4	185	Oklahoma State
32. Dru Samia	San Ramon Valley (Danville, CA)	OL	6-5	295	Oklahoma
33. Kahlil Haughton	Midway (Waco, TX)	DB	6-2	175	Oklahoma
34. DeAndre McNeal	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	ATH	6-1	228	Texas
35. Davante Davis	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	DB	6-3	191	Texas
36. Kai Locksley	Gilman (Baltimore, MD)	QB	6-3	188	Texas
37. Kevin Henry	Central (Baton Rouge, LA)	DB	6-1	305	Oklahoma State
38. Du'Vonta Lumpkin	Cypress Falls (Houston, TX)	DL	6-3	293	Texas
39. Kirk Johnson	Valley Christian (San Jose, CA)	RB	5-11	194	Texas
40. Elijah Sullivan	Tucker (Tucker, GA)	LB	6-1	215	Kansas State

Rosen: Peter Brouillet; Thompson: AP

Wrangler

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PAC-12

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Iman Marshall	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
2.	Josh Rosen	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-4	205	UCLA
3.	Canton Kaumatule	Punahou (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-7	290	Oregon
4.	Keisean Lucier-South	Lutheran Orange County (Orange, CA)	LB	6-4	210	UCLA
5.	Rasheem Green	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DL	6-5	275	USC
6.	Chuma Edoga	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	OL	6-3	280	USC
7.	Soso Jamabo	Plano West (Plano, TX)	RB	6-2	210	UCLA
8.	Osa Masina	Brighton (Salt Lake City, UT)	LB	6-3	230	USC
9.	Ronald Jones II	McKinney North (McKinney, TX)	RB	6-0	185	USC
10.	Porter Gustin	Salem Hills (Salem, UT)	LB	6-5	245	USC
11.	John Houston	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	LB	6-3	211	USC
12.	Taj Griffin	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	RB	5-10	175	Oregon
13.	Marvell Tell	Crespi (Encino, CA)	DB	6-1	190	USC
14.	Brady White	Hart (Newhall, CA)	QB	6-1	180	Arizona State
15.	DeChaun Holiday	Mission Hills (San Marcos, CA)	DB	6-3	195	UCLA
16.	Jacob Daniel	Clovis North (Clovis, CA)	DL	6-4	310	USC
17.	Trent Irwin	Hart (Newhall, CA)	WR	6-1	190	Stanford
18.	Jake Browning	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	QB	6-2	185	Washington
19.	Ricky Town	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	QB	6-3	205	USC
20.	Ykili Ross	Riverside Poly (Riverside, CA)	DB	6-0	175	USC
21.	Chris Clark	Avon Old Farms (Avon, CT)	TE	6-6	245	UCLA
22.	Joseph Wicker	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DL	6-2	280	Arizona State
23.	Isaiah Langley	Foothill (Pleasanton, CA)	DB	5-11	160	USC
24.	Josh Wariboko	Casady School (Oklahoma City, OK)	OL	6-3	315	UCLA
25.	Travis Waller	Servite (Anaheim, CA)	QB	6-2	190	Oregon
26.	Alex Ofodile	Rock Bridge (Columbia, MO)	WR	6-2	185	Oregon
27.	Frank Buncom IV	St. Augustine (San Diego, CA)	DB	6-2	190	Stanford
28.	Malik Lovette	Redlands East Valley (Redlands, CA)	WR	5-11	204	Oregon
29.	Keenan Walker	Chaparral (Scottsdale, AZ)	OL	6-6	280	Arizona
30.	Sam Darnold	San Clemente (San Clemente, CA)	QB	6-3	210	USC
31.	Fred Ulu-Perry	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	OL	6-2	300	UCLA
32.	Stanley Norman	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DB	6-0	180	Arizona State
33.	Carlos Strickland	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	WR	6-5	195	Cal
34.	Kirk Merritt	Destrehan (Destrehan, LA)	WR	5-11	205	Oregon
35.	Jason Lewis	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	RB	6-2	250	Arizona State
36.	Cameron Smith	Granite Bay (Granite Bay, CA)	LB	6-3	240	USC
37.	Tyler Petite	Campolindo (Morage, CA)	TE	6-5	225	USC
38.	Andre James	Herriman (Herriman, UT)	OL	6-5	275	UCLA
39.	Benning Potoa'e	Lakes (Lakewood, WA)	DL	6-4	270	Washington
40.	Cordell Broadus	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	WR	6-2	195	UCLA

SEC

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Trent Thompson	Westover (Albany, GA)	DL	6-2	313	Georgia
2.	Martez Ivey	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	OL	6-5	275	Florida
3.	Byron Cowart	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DL	6-4	250	Auburn
4.	Kahlil McKenzie	Clayton Valley (Concord, CA)	DL	6-3	350	Tennessee
5.	CeCe Jefferson	Baker County (Glen St. Mary, FL)	DL	6-2	275	Florida
6.	Kevin Toliver II	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	DB	6-2	185	LSU
7.	Calvin Ridley	Monarch (Pompano Beach, FL)	WR	6-0	170	Alabama
8.	Terry Beckner Jr.	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	DL	6-4	293	Missouri
9.	Daylon Mack	Gladewater (Gladewater, TX)	DL	6-1	330	Texas A&M
10.	Kendall Sheffield	Ft. Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	DB	6-0	180	Alabama
11.	Blake Barnett	Santiago (Corona, CA)	QB	6-4	200	Alabama
12.	Christian Kirk	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	5-10	190	Texas A&M
13.	Tyron Johnson	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-1	190	LSU
14.	Terry Godwin	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	ATH	6-0	170	Georgia
15.	Daron Payne	Shades Valley (Birmingham, AL)	DL	6-2	325	Alabama
16.	Minkah Fitzpatrick	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	DB	6-1	200	Alabama
17.	Damien Harris	Madison Southern (Berea, KY)	RB	5-11	205	Alabama
18.	Kyler Murray	Allen (Allen, TX)	QB	5-10	180	Texas A&M
19.	Kyle Phillips	Hillsboro (Nashville, TN)	DL	6-3	250	Tennessee
20.	Maea Teuhema	Keller (Keller, TX)	OL	6-4	340	LSU
21.	Kerryon Johnson	Madison Academy (Madison, AL)	RB	6-0	200	Auburn
22.	DeMarkus Lodge	Cedar Hill (Cedar Hill, TX)	WR	6-2	190	Ole Miss
23.	Deionte Thompson	West Orange-Stark (Orange, TX)	DB	6-2	180	Alabama
24.	Derrius Guice	Catholic (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	5-10	213	LSU
25.	Roquan Smith	Macon County (Montezuma, GA)	LB	6-2	210	Georgia
26.	Preston Williams	Lovejoy (Hampton, GA)	WR	6-4	190	Tennessee
27.	Javon Patterson	Petal (Petal, MS)	OL	6-2	317	Ole Miss
28.	Shy Tuttle	North Davidson (Lexington, NC)	DL	6-3	320	Tennessee
29.	Lester Cotton	Central (Tuscaloosa, AL)	OL	6-4	325	Alabama
30.	Drew Richmond	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)	OL	6-5	310	Tennessee
31.	Donte Jackson	Riverdale (New Orleans, LA)	DB	5-11	165	LSU
32.	Jamal Peters	Bassfield (Bassfield, MS)	DB	6-1	205	Mississippi State
33.	Leo Lewis	Brookhaven (Brookhaven, MS)	LB	6-3	225	Mississippi State
34.	Richie Petitbon	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	OL	6-4	300	Alabama
35.	Jonathan Ledbetter	Tucker (Tucker, GA)	DL	6-4	265	Georgia
36.	Arden Key	Hapeville Charter (Atlanta, GA)	DL	6-5	230	LSU
37.	Natrez Patrick	Mays (Atlanta, GA)	LB	6-3	260	Georgia
38.	Daylon Charlot	Patterson (Patterson, LA)	WR	6-0	195	Alabama
39.	Drew Lock	Lee's Summit (Lee's Summit, MO)	QB	6-3	205	Missouri
40.	Chidi Valentine-Okeke	Faith Baptist Christian (Ludowici, GA)	OL	6-6	305	LSU





BY CONFERENCE RECRUITING REPORT

RANKINGS PROVIDED BY 247COMPOSITE

presented by Wrangler
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AMERICAN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Tristan Payton	First Coast (Jacksonville, FL)	WR	6-0	182	UCF
2.	Chad President	Temple (Temple, TX)	QB	6-3	195	Tulsa
3.	Tyreik Gray	Lamar (Houston, TX)	RB	5-11	187	Houston
4.	T.J. Simmons	Lakeland Christian (Lakeland, FL)	RB	5-11	195	Temple
5.	Kareem Ali Jr.	Timber Creek (Sicklerville, NJ)	DB	5-10	165	Temple
6.	Ross Trail	Wynne (Wynne, AR)	QB	6-3	205	Cincinnati
7.	Rashard Causey	St. Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-0	185	UCF
8.	James Proche	DeSoto (DeSoto, TX)	WR	6-0	185	SMU
9.	Khalid McGee	Northwestern (Miami, FL)	DB	5-10	185	South Florida
10.	Luke Hiers	Lake Wales (Lake Wales, FL)	OL	6-3	295	UCF

SUN BELT

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Dion Ray	Helen Cox (Harvey, LA)	QB	6-0	185	UL Lafayette
2.	Mario Osborne	Daphne (Daphne, AL)	DL	6-3	260	UL Lafayette
3.	Jalen Thompson	St. Paul's Episcopal (Mobile, AL)	DB	5-10	170	South Alabama
4.	D.J. Pearson	Northview (Duluth, GA)	QB	6-3	195	Arkansas State
5.	Keenan Barnes	Madison Central (Madison, MS)	ATH	6-4	185	UL Lafayette
6.	Markeis Hallback	Moore Haven (Moore Haven, FL)	RB	5-11	185	Georgia Southern
7.	Gary Haynes	Manvel (Manvel, TX)	ATH	5-8	160	UL Lafayette
8.	Cortez Sisco	Desoto Central (Southaven, MS)	DB	6-1	215	ULM
9.	Daniel David	Mill Creek (Hoschton, GA)	QB	6-1	192	Appalachian State
10.	Joshua Moon	Creekside (Fairburn, GA)	DB	6-0	185	Georgia Southern

C-USA

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Trae Meadows	Dudley (Greensboro, NC)	DB	6-1	190	Middle Tennessee
2.	Von Davis	Mount Dora (Mount Dora, FL)	DB	5-11	170	Marshall
3.	Johnny Shaw	West Orange-Stark (Orange, TX)	DB	6-1	190	Louisiana Tech
4.	Zach Abercrumbia	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	DT	6-3	260	Rice
5.	Reese Ryan	Lexington Catholic (Lexington, KY)	QB	6-2	170	Western Kentucky
6.	Kevin Dillman	Guyer (Denton, TX)	TE	6-4	220	North Texas
7.	Ruben Garnett	Aquinas (Augusta, GA)	RB	5-8	175	Middle Tennessee
8.	Tarrick Thomas	Lincoln (Tallahassee, FL)	OL	6-4	270	FAU
9.	Rhashid Bonnette	Loreauville (Loreauville, LA)	WR	5-11	170	Louisiana Tech
10.	J'Mar Smith	Meridian (Meridian, MS)	QB	5-11	170	Louisiana Tech

MAC

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	James Morgan	Ashwaubenon (Green Bay, WI)	QB	6-4	205	Bowling Green
2.	Justin Tranquill	Carroll (Fort Wayne, IN)	DB	5-11	195	Western Michigan
3.	Deontai Williams	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	DB	6-0	175	Ohio
4.	Spencer Tears	H.L. Richads (Oak Lawn, IL)	WR	6-2	175	Northern Illinois
5.	LeVante Bellamy	Pike (Indianapolis, IN)	WR	5-9	165	Western Michigan
6.	Juantez McRae	Franklin (Reisterstown, MD)	DB	5-10	170	Kent State
7.	Aaron Covington	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DB	5-9	175	Toledo
8.	Chris Green	Central Catholic (Toledo, OH)	LB	6-0	225	Toledo
9.	Brandon Childress	Baldwin Senior (Baldwin, MI)	WR	6-3	185	Central Michigan
10.	Jeff Christian	Colerain (Cincinnati, OH)	DB	5-11	175	Ohio

MOUNTAIN WEST

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	DeSean Holmes	San Fernando (Pasadena, CA)	WR	5-10	170	San Diego State
2.	Kanya Bell Jr.	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	WR	6-0	160	San Jose State
3.	Brett Rypien	Shadle Park (Spokane, WA)	QB	6-2	185	Boise State
4.	Kyahva Tezino	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	LB	6-0	207	San Diego State
5.	Tae'on Mason	John Muir (Pasadena, CA)	ATH	6-0	170	San Jose State
6.	Chason Virgil	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	QB	6-2	170	Fresno State
7.	Jeremy Kelly	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	DB	6-1	170	San Jose State
8.	Drew Berger	Coeur d'Alene (Coeur d'Alene, ID)	LB	6-1	220	Boise State
9.	Akilan Butler	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	WR	5-11	170	Boise State
10.	John Carroll	St. Francis (La Canada Flintridge, CA)	ATH	6-3	210	San Diego State

TEAM RANKINGS

ACC
1. Florida State
2. Clemson
3. Miami
4. North Carolina
5. Virginia Tech
6. NC State
7. Louisville
8. Georgia Tech
9. Virginia
10. Duke
11. Wake Forest
12. Boston College
13. Pittsburgh
14. Syracuse

BIG 12
1. Texas
2. Oklahoma
3. Texas Tech
4. West Virginia
5. Baylor
6. Oklahoma State
7. TCU
8. Kansas State
9. Iowa State
10. Kansas

BIG TEN
1. Ohio State
2. Penn State
3. Michigan State
4. Nebraska
5. Wisconsin
6. Michigan
7. Illinois
8. Maryland
9. Indiana
10. Northwestern
11. Rutgers
12. Iowa
13. Minnesota
14. Purdue

PAC-12
1. USC
2. UCLA
3. Oregon
4. Arizona State
5. Stanford
6. Washington
7. California
8. Arizona
9. Washington State
10. Utah
11. Oregon State
12. Colorado

SEC
1. Alabama
2. Tennessee
3. LSU
4. Georgia
5. Auburn
6. Texas A&M
7. Ole Miss
8. Mississippi State
9. South Carolina
10. Florida
11. Arkansas
12. Missouri
13. Kentucky
14. Vanderbilt

AMERICAN
1. South Florida
2. Cincinnati
3. UCF
4. Memphis
5. Temple
6. SMU
7. Houston
8. East Carolina
9. Tulane
10. Connecticut
11. Navy
12. Tulsa

C-USA
1. Marshall
2. Florida Atlantic
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Southern Miss
5. FIU
6. Old Dominion
7. North Texas
8. UTSA
9. Middle Tennessee
10. Rice
11. Western Kentucky
12. Charlotte
13. UTEP

MAC
1. Western Michigan
2. Miami
3. Toledo
4. Northern Illinois
5. Ohio
6. Central Michigan
7. Kent State
8. Massachuesetts
9. Bowling Green
10. Eastern Michigan
11. Ball State
12. Buffalo
13. Akron

MOUNTAIN WEST
1. Boise State
2. San Jose State
3. San Diego State
4. Fresno State
5. Utah State
6. Wyoming
7. UNLV
8. Nevada
9. New Mexico
10. Colorado State
11. Hawaii
12. Air Force

SUN BELT
1. UL Lafayette
2. South Alabama
3. Arkansas State
4. Georgia Southern
5. Texas state
6. ULM
7. Troy
8. Appalachian State
9. New Mexico State
10. Idaho
11. Georgia State

TOP 100 RISING SENIOR CLASS OF 2016

presented by

Wrangler

Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt
1.	Rashan Gary	Paramus Catholic (Paramus, NJ)	DT	6-4	290
2.	Gregory Little	Allen (Allen, TX)	OL	6-5	305
3.	Shavar Manuel	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	DE	6-5	265
4.	Jacob Eason	Lake Stevens (Lake Stevens, WA)	QB	6-5	205
5.	Derrick Brown	Lanier (Buford, GA)	DT	6-4	305
6.	Keion Joyner	Havelock (Havelock, NC)	LB	6-3	200
7.	Saivion Smith	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	CB	6-1	175
8.	Lyndell Wilson	Carver (Montgomery, AL)	LB	6-2	220
9.	Malik Henry	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	QB	6-3	180
10.	Kareem Walker	De Paul Catholic (Wayne, NJ)	RB	6-1	210
11.	Nick Bosa	St. Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DE	6-4	265
12.	Patrick Hudson	Silsbee (Silsbee, TX)	OT	6-5	325
13.	Edwin Alexander	St. Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	DT	6-2	310
14.	Rashard Lawrence	Neville (Monroe, LA)	DT	6-3	305
15.	Dexter Lawrence	Wake Forest-Rolesville (Wake Forest, NC)	DT	6-5	310
16.	Caleb Kelly	Clovis West (Fresno, CA)	LB	6-3	215
17.	Nate Craig-Myers	Tampa Catholic (Tampa, FL)	WR	6-2	205
18.	Levonta Taylor	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	CB	5-10	170
19.	Shea Patterson	Calvary Baptist Academy (Shreveport, LA)	QB	6-2	195
20.	Brandon Jones	Nacogdoches (Nacogdoches, TX)	S	5-11	183
21.	Tavien Feaster	Spartanburg (Spartanburg, SC)	RB	6-0	190
22.	Ben Davis	Gordo (Gordo, AL)	LB	6-4	230
23.	Julian Rochester	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	DT	6-5	315
24.	Ed Oliver	Westfield (Houston, TX)	DT	6-2	285
25.	Tommy Kraemer	Elder (Cincinnati, OH)	OL	6-5	305
26.	Eric Monroe	North Shore (Houston, TX)	S	6-0	180
27.	Marlon Davidson	Carver (Montgomery, AL)	DE	6-4	260
28.	Breland Brandt	Windward (Los Angeles, CA)	DE	6-4	220
29.	Tyler Vaughns	Bishop Arnat (La Puente, CA)	WR	6-3	175
30.	Willie Allen	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	OL	6-7	300
31.	Ben Cleveland	Stephens County (Toccoa, GA)	OL	6-7	322
32.	Shyheim Carter	Kentwood (Kentwood, LA)	CB	6-0	190
33.	KJ Costello	Santa Margarita Catholic (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA)	QB	6-4	213
34.	Ben Bredeson	Arrowhead (Hartland, WI)	OL	6-5	270
35.	Demetris Robertson	Savannah Christian Prep (Savannah, GA)	ATH	6-1	165
36.	Isaac Nauta	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	TE	6-4	237
37.	Deontay Anderson	Manvel (Manvel, TX)	S	6-1	192
38.	Devin Duvernay	Sachse (Sachse, TX)	WR	5-11	195
39.	Kristian Fulton	Archbishop Rummell (Metairie, LA)	CB	6-0	165
40.	Sam Bruce	St. Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	WR	5-8	160
41.	Trayvon Mullen	Coconut Creek (Pompano Beach, FL)	CB	6-2	175
42.	Feleipe Franks	Wakulla (Crawfordville, FL)	QB	6-5	220
43.	Janarius Robinson	Bay (Panama City, FL)	DE	6-5	250
44.	Michal Menet	Exter (Reading, PA)	OL	6-5	265
45.	Dylan Crawford	Santa Margarita Catholic (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA)	WR	6-1	175
46.	DeKaylin Metcalf	Oxford (Oxford, MS)	WR	6-3	195
47.	Jawon Pass	Carver (Columbus, GA)	QB	6-5	220
48.	Rahshaun Smith	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	DE	6-3	225
49.	Demario McCall	North Ridgeville (North Ridgeville, OH)	RB	5-11	180
50.	Antwaun Jackson	Cedar Grove (Ellenwood, GA)	DT	6-2	285
51.	Josh King	Hinsdale South (Darien, IL)	DE	6-6	250
52.	Marquez Callaway	Warner Robins (Warner Robins, GA)	ATH	6-2	170
53.	Kendell Jones	Shoemaker (Killeen, TX)	DT	6-4	360
54.	Jauan Williams	Archbishop Carroll (Washington, DC)	OT	6-7	300
55.	Benito Jones	Wayne County (Waynesboro, MS)	DT	6-2	260
56.	John Raridon	Valley (West Des Moines, IA)	OL	6-4	260
57.	Chauncey Manac	Clinch County (Homeville, GA)	DE	6-3	220
58.	Shane Simmons	DeMatha Catholic (Hyattsville, MD)	DE	6-4	220
59.	Lokeni Toailoa	Wilmer Amina Carter (Rialto, CA)	LB	6-1	212
60.	Kaden Smith	Marcus (Flower Mound, TX)	TE	6-5	235
61.	Boss Tagaloa	De La Salle (Concord, CA)	DT	6-3	295
62.	Damion Dickens	Holmes County (Lexington, MS)	DE	6-4	225
63.	George Hill	Hubbard (Hubbard, OH)	RB	6-0	200
64.	Dwayne Haskins	The Bullis School (Potomac, MD)	QB	6-3	185
65.	Scott Bracey	Benedictine (Richmond, VA)	ATH	6-3	195
66.	Eli Stove	Niceville (Niceville, FL)	WR	6-1	180
67.	Shurod Thompson	Liberty (Brentwood, CA)	S	6-1	185
68.	Collin Johnson	Valley Christian (San Jose, CA)	WR	6-5	200
69.	Erick Fowler	Manor (Manor, TX)	DE	6-1	230
70.	Stephen Sullivan	Donaldsonville (Donaldsonville, LA)	WR	6-6	222
71.	Jake Hausmann	Archbishop Moeller (Cincinnati, OH)	TE	6-5	235
72.	Prince Sammons	Cincinnati Hills Academy (Cincinnati, OH)	DE	6-8	280
73.	Brendan Ferns	St. Clairsville (St. Clairsville, OH)	LB	6-3	223
74.	Jonah Wililams	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	OL	6-5	272
75.	Javon McKinley	Centennial (Corona, CA)	WR	6-2	185
76.	Trevon Sidney	Bishop Arnat (La Puente, CA)	WR	5-11	160
77.	E.J. Price	Archer (Lawrenceville, GA)	OL	6-6	311
78.	Miles Sanders	Woodland Hills (Pittsburgh, PA)	RB	5-10	195
79.	Nigel Warrior	Westlake (Atlanta, GA)	S	6-0	175
80.	Jack Jones	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	ATH	5-11	170
81.	Mique Juarez	North High School (Torrence, CA)	LB	6-2	210
82.	Daelin Hayes	Skyline (Ann Arbor, MI)	LB	6-4	250
83.	Liam Eichenberg	St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH)	OL	6-6	290
84.	Jeffrey McCulloch	Aldine Davis (Houston, TX)	LB	6-2	230
85.	Darnell Salomon	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	WR	6-3	198
86.	John Broussard	Cnetral (Phenix City, AL)	CB	6-0	165
87.	Trevon Diggs	The Avalon School (Bethesda, MD)	ATH	6-0	185
88.	Ahmir Mitchell	Cedar Creek (Egg Harbor City, NJ)	ATH	6-2	190
89.	Mykel Jones	Patterson (Patterson, LA)	WR	6-0	180
90.	Brandon Burton	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	S	6-2	195
91.	Devin Asiasi	De La Salle (Concord, CA)	ATH	6-5	230
92.	Jordan Elliott	Westside (Houston, TX)	DT	6-4	305
93.	Michael Divinity	John Ehret (Marrero, LA)	LB	6-2	218
94.	Chase Lucas	Chandler (Chandler, AZ)	ATH	5-11	165
95.	Oluwoie Betiku	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DE	6-4	240
96.	Nigel Knott	Germantown (Madison, MS)	CB	5-11	175
97.	Charlie Woerner	Rabun County (Tiger, GA)	WR	6-5	220
98.	Shaquille Quarterman	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	LB	6-1	240
99.	Mecole Hardman	Elbert County (Elberton, GA)	CB	5-11	170
100.	Justin Layne	Benedictine (Cleveland, OH)	WR	6-3	180

The Back Page

2015 Bowl Projections

ALAMO
Pac-12 vs. Big 12
ARIZONA STATE VS. OKLAHOMA

ARIZONA
Mountain West vs. C-USA
ILLINOIS* VS. BOSTON COLLEGE*

ARMED FORCES
Big Ten vs. Mountain West
MARYLAND VS. AIR FORCE

AUSTIN
American vs. C-USA
MIAMI (FLA.) * VS. INDIANA*

BAHAMAS
C-USA vs. MAC
MTSU VS. NORTHERN ILLINOIS

BELK
ACC vs. SEC
NC STATE VS. FLORIDA

BIRMINGHAM
SEC vs. American
SOUTH CAROLINA VS. MEMPHIS

BOCA RATON
American vs. MAC
EAST CAROLINA VS. TOLEDO

CACTUS
Big 12 vs. Pac-12
KANSAS STATE VS. UTAH

CAMELLIA
Sun Belt vs. MAC
APPALACHIAN STATE VS. AKRON

CITRUS
SEC vs. Big Ten
WISCONSIN VS. TENNESSEE

CURE
American vs. Sun Belt
UCF VS. GEORGIA SOUTHERN

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO
MAC vs. Mountain West
BOWLING GREEN VS. NEVADA

FOSTER FARMS
Big Ten vs. Pac-12
MINNESOTA VS. UCLA

GODADDY
Sun Belt vs. MAC
ARKANSAS STATE VS. WESTERN MICHIGAN

HAWAII
American vs. Mountain West
TEMPLE VS. BYU*

HEART OF DALLAS
Big 12 vs. C-USA
TEXAS TECH VS. RICE

HOLIDAY
Pac-12 vs. Big Ten
STANFORD VS. PENN STATE

INDEPENDENCE
ACC vs. SEC
NORTH CAROLINA VS. KENTUCKY

LAS VEGAS
Pac-12 vs. Mountain West
CALIFORNIA VS. UTAH STATE

LIBERTY
SEC vs. Big 12
MISSISSIPPI STATE VS. TEXAS

MIAMI BEACH
American vs. C-USA
CINCINNATI VS. WKU

MILITARY
ACC vs. American
LOUISVILLE VS. NAVY

MUSIC CITY
ACC/Big Ten vs. SEC
IOWA VS. MISSOURI

NEW MEXICO
C-USA vs. Mountain West
LOUISIANA TECH VS. SAN DIEGO STATE

NEW ORLEANS
C-USA vs. Sun Belt
UTEP VS. UL LAFAYETTE

OUTBACK
SEC vs. Big Ten
ARKANSAS VS. NEBRASKA

PINSTRIPE
ACC vs. Big Ten
VIRGINIA TECH VS. MICHIGAN

POINSETTIA
Mountain West vs. Army
COLORADO STATE VS. WASHINGTON*

QUICK LANE
Big Ten vs. ACC
NORTHWESTERN VS. PITTSBURGH

RUSSELL ATHLETIC
ACC vs. Big 12
NOTRE DAME VS. WEST VIRGINIA

ST. PETERSBURG
American vs. C-USA
HOUSTON VS. MARSHALL

SUN
ACC vs. Pac-12
GEORGIA TECH VS. ARIZONA

TAXSLAYER
ACC/Big Ten vs. SEC
CLEMSON VS. TEXAS A&M

TEXAS
SEC vs. Big 12
LSU VS. OKLAHOMA STATE

PEACH
At-large vs. At-large
FLORIDA STATE VS. OLE MISS

FIESTA
At-large vs. At-large
OREGON VS. BOISE STATE

ROSE
Pac-12 No. 1 vs. Big Ten No. 1
USC VS. MICHIGAN STATE

SUGAR
SEC vs. Big 12
GEORGIA VS. TCU



Ric Fogel

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

Playoff Semifinals
COTTON BOWL
OHIO STATE (1) VS. AUBURN (4)

Playoff Semifinals
ORANGE BOWL
ALABAMA (2) vs. BAYLOR (3)

Winner of Cotton Bowl vs.
Winner of Orange Bowl
OHIO STATE VS. ALABAMA

* According to our projections, the American Athletic Conference, Conference USA and Mountain West will fail to fill their allotted slots.

• The Arizona and Austin bowl games are pending approval for 2015



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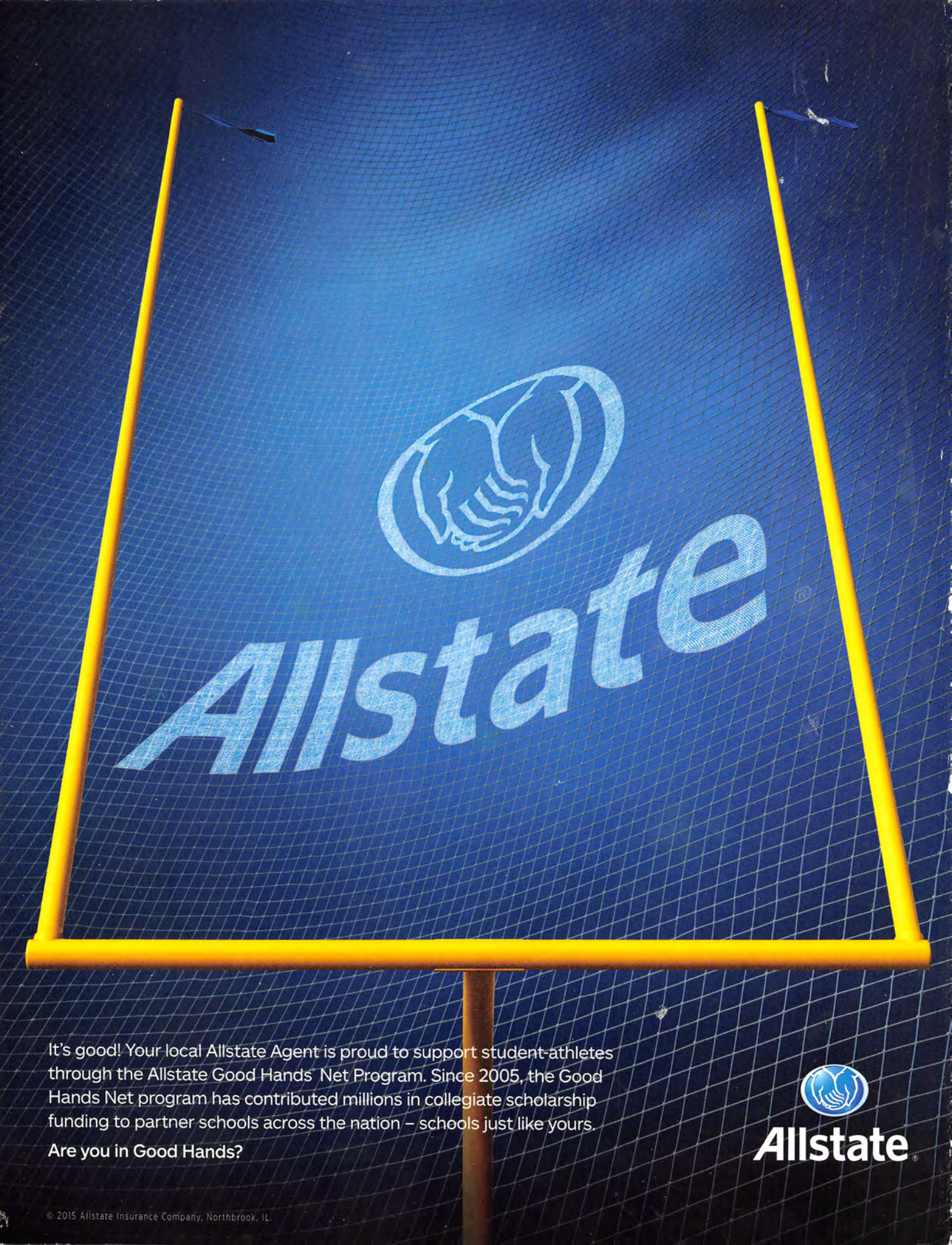
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